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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Welcomes Somalia Operation

JN0612111892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Khalil al-Qaryuti on 6 December; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Qaryuti] Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, how does the Arab League view the international military operation in Somalia, which will begin next Tuesday?

['Abd-al-Majid] In fact, this is taking place within the UN framework through the resolution that was unanimously adopted by the Security Council which provides for an international military presence in Somalia. Of course, the largest contribution will be by the United States, but it will be carried out within the framework of what the United Nations decides. I believe that, in the first place, there was a Somali willingness for this operation. I attended the Islamic conference in Jeddah, and there the Somali foreign minister welcomed this step. We hope it will lead to stability so that the quarters which distribute relief assistance can reach the Somali people. Undoubtedly, this is a noble objective aimed at extending relief assistance to the Somali people and putting an end to the chaotic situation there. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Beirut Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Jordanian Minister Previews Summit

NC0612142992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir by unidentified correspondent after arriving in Beirut for an Arab foreign ministers conference on the Middle East peace talks on 4 December—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Jabir] I want to greet the Lebanese president, government, and fraternal Lebanese people. We hope Lebanon will regain its health. We congratulate you on the new government. We hope things will proceed well, God willing.

Our meeting today is within the framework of our meetings to coordinate stands for two main goals: To review and assess the previous rounds of peace talks, particularly the seventh round, and to coordinate ideas and examine our stands on the next round of talks in Washington on 7 December.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, does the Jordanian delegation have a working paper to put forward to the cordless states meeting in Beirut?

[Abu-Jabir] We have come to listen rather than to put forward working papers. Frankly speaking, no ideas will be proposed by the Jordanians or Syrians, Lebanese, or Palestinians brothers. The basic thing is to adhere to our rights and insist on adhering to these rights and convince the world and the other party that any settlement must be based on the foundations of the peace process since its beginning in Madrid. These foundations and principles are known and are represented by the concept of international legitimacy, land for peace; adherence to UN resolutions—particularly Resolution 242 and 338 on the occupied Arab land, the Syrian Golan Heights, the Jordanian land, and giving the Palestinian people the right to determine their future on their land—and withdrawal, particularly from Jerusalem. Regarding Lebanon, the Arab delegations will adhere to all aspects of Resolution 425. These are the foundations of the Arab stand.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] imagine the future of the peace talks in light of the new U.S. policy in the area. Do you think Israel will again obstruct these talks?

[Abu-Jabir] [Words indistinct] I believe the U.S. policy has continuity, which President-elect Bill Clinton emphasized. We insist—I believe that the world is now convinced of this—on a comprehensive, permanent, and fair solution. A solution cannot be just unless it is comprehensive and cannot be permanent unless it is fair and comprehensive at the same time. As for the U.S. stand, things may change from time to time, but we believe there is continuity in the U.S. policy. I believe the U.S. stand now shows understanding of the Arab position, whether Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, or Jordanian.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives

JN0412143492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Beirut—Foreign Minister Farug al-Shar' and his delegation arrived in Beirut today to take part in the meeting due to be held there by the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace talks.

Al-Shar' and his delegation were welcomed along the Lebanese-Syrian border by 'Abdallah al-Amin, Lebanese minister of labor and social affairs; Mucin Talhuq, adviser at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry; and several officials of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry.

The foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the Middle East peace process are scheduled to begin their meeting in the Lebanese town of Bayt Miri today to evaluate the outcome of the seventh round of the Washington talks and draw up a unified strategy for the eighth round of talks.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz made a statement after he had met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday, saying that the Beirut meeting will draw up an action plan for the Arab delegations which will take part in the eighth round of the Washington talks.

Ministers Begin Meeting 4 Dec

NC0412152292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace talks began at 1500 today at al-Bustan Hotel in Bayt Miri. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and reviewing the results and progress of the seven rounds of peace talks. This was followed by a discussion. It has been learned that the discussions will focus on recent developments such as the election of a new president in the United States, the sponsor of the negotiations.

Those taking part in the meeting are: the Lebanese delegation, led by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and including Ambassadors Suhayl Shammas, Ja'far Mu'awiyah, Jihad Murtada, Samir Mubarak, and Director of Minister Buwayz' Office Yusuf Arqashin; the Syrian delegation, led by Foreign Minister Farug al-Shar' and including Ambassadors Zakariya Isma'il, Walid al-Mu'allim, Majid Abu-Salih, and Ahmad 'Arnous; the Jordanian delegation, led by Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir and including 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Nayif al- Qadi, Musa al-Majali, and Jordanian Charge d'Affaires in Beirut 'Atif Hidas; the Egyptian delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Ihab Mustafa and including Egyptian Ambassador in Lebanon Sayyid Abu-Zayd 'Umar and 'Atif Anwar; and the Palestinian delegation, including Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Faysal al-Husayni, and Sa'ib 'Uraygat.

The meeting will end around 2000 today. It has been learned that a committee will be formed to draft the final statement. Minister Buwayz will hold a banquet for the participants at 2100 today.

Ministers Issue Final Statement

NC0412210092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2005 GMT 4 Dec 92

["Final statement" issued by the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states at the end of their second meeting in Beirut on 4 December; read by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and followed by Buwayz' remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents—recorded]

[Text] At the invitation of the Lebanese minister of foreign and expatriate affairs to the foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the bilateral peace negotiations and to Egypt, the foreign ministers of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Lebanon, and a representative of the state of Palestine held a coordination meeting in Beirut on 4 December. The assistant foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt participated in the meeting, which was part of the Arab coordination and consultation meetings.

The conferees reviewed the developments of the peace process and held a comprehensive analysis of the previous round of talks. They stressed that the Arab sides are committed to the peace process proceeding from the Arab principles and constants as expressed in previous coordination meetings, especially the Damascus statement of 25 July 1992.

The participants expressed their regret over the lack of substantial progress so far thanks to the continued Israeli intransigence and Israel's failure to commit itself to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principles on which the peace process is based, especially the principle of withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem, full implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in a manner that guarantees the national rights of the Palestinian people, and implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for Israel's unconditional withdrawal to the internationally recognized border.

The conferees noted with deep concern Israel's plans and ideas along the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating track. These plans and ideas are out of tune with the terms of reference for the peace process, the letters of invitation, and the assertions made by the United States. The conferees stressed that any of the measures taken on the Palestinian track must be in line with Resolutions 242 and 338, which constitute the basis of the entire peace process.

The participants reiterated their full obligation to the principle of achieving a comprehensive, just, and durable peace and their commitment to the principle of a comprehensive solution on all fronts and tracks according to the commitments made by the two sponsors of the conference.

The participants also called on the conference's two sponsors to intensify their efforts to play a role in advancing the peace process. They expressed their hope that progress will be made on all tracks in the next bilateral talks, because after a year [since the Madrid peace conference] such progress constitutes a basic factor in continuing the peace process.

The participants also reiterated the importance of concerted efforts for continued coordination among the Arab parties taking part in the talks and thanked the Lebanese president, Government, and people for their hospitability and the well-organized conference. They agreed to hold the next meeting in Cairo at a date to be set later. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Have you agreed to participate in the eighth round in Washington on Monday?

[Buwayz] Of course.

[Correspondent] Will you participate in the ninth round?

[Buwayz] We will assess each round according to its results and circumstances. It is premature to talk about a prior

resolution concerning forthcoming rounds. Today we discussed participation in the next round, and this statement is quite clear on the participation in this round.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, how much progress is there on the Lebanese-Israeli track so far?

[Shawyri] This is irrelevant.

[Correspondent] Are you hopeful that progress will be made in the eighth round of talks with the Israeli side?

[Shawyri] Naturally, those who called for the peace conference and its sponsors have to exert every effort to be committed to the assurances they gave on the peace conference. As for the Arab side, we hope to achieve progress and we will deal with this round positively to preserve Arab rights.

Syrian Foreign Minister Comments

NC0512113192 Sharqiyah Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Before leaving Beirut for Damascus today, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara' said that the coordination meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers was good. He said that the Arab delegations agreed on a unified stance regarding the next stage, namely participation in the next round of Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Al-Shara' said that the Palestinian brothers agree with the general Arab view that favors participation in the next round, particularly as the Palestinians attended the multilateral talks in London three days ago.

In response to a question, al-Shara' said: We are participating in the peace process on the conditions that it produce results in line with U.S. commitments, regardless of who is the U.S. President. At any rate, if the next U.S. Administration is not interested in the peace process, this will create new conditions in the region totally at variance with the demonstrated peaceful Arab tendencies.

Al-Shara' said: We have a unified and clear stand. Syria, in particular, has its stand on a comprehensive solution and implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 on all fronts, as well as implementation of Resolution 425 concerning south Lebanon. If the peace process fails to produce such results and if the next U.S. Administration is not as committed as the previous one, this would indicate a substantial change in U.S. policy. Al-Shara' said this change is absolutely not expected, adding, however: We in Syria will not continue a futile process and we will continue to abide by our rights to regain our occupied land. We will continue our efforts with our Arab brothers, be they the Arab countries participating in the peace process or the other nonparticipating Arab countries. I do not believe that anyone will impose anything on Syria which runs counter to its national and pan-Arab principles and stands.

To another question about the redeployment of the Syrian troops in Lebanon, al-Shara' said: This issue concerns Lebanon and Syria, and I have not heard that the United States is insisting on intervening in Lebanon's domestic affairs, even if public statements are made on this issue now and then.

Jordanian Minister on U.S. Role

NC0512135192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Beirut, 5 Dec (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has stated that the outcome of the meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers in Beirut yesterday was necessary to stress the Arab parties' interest in continuing the peace process, maintaining its momentum, and holding the U.S. Administration responsible for implementing its pledges and commitments regarding the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 425, which concerns Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Abu-Jabir ruled out any major or sudden step by the current U.S. Administration during its remaining term in power to pressure Israel during the eighth round of talks, which will open in Washington on Monday. Abu-Jabir said that the Bush administration cannot pressure Israel, but is trying to help the parties concerned reach acceptable formulas that are still facing major obstacles. He explained that the peace process between the Arabs and Israel will be long and arduous, and no time limit of months, a year, or two years could be given to reach a comprehensive solution for a complicated crisis that has existed for decades. The Jordanian minister said that all the parties to the Washington talks are fully aware that continuing the peace process does not depend on the U.S. stand alone. These parties are not waiting for President Bush's administration or Clinton's administration to determine the future of peace in the region. The Arab position, he added, depends mainly on the fact that the peace process is now in the hands of the Arabs themselves, who have the power to promote it and chart its course in the far east. He said the Arabs still possess political cards to use as a source of pressure at the negotiating table with Israel. The most important card, he added, is the principle of recognition and coexistence, which is still in the hands of the Arabs. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Official on Meeting

NC0512204692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1339 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Beirut, 5 Dec (MENA)—Mahab Mamlik, assistant foreign minister and head of the Egyptian delegation to yesterday's cordon states foreign ministers meetings in Beirut, has said that the next round of these meetings will be held in Cairo at the end of the eighth round of peace negotiations in Washington, due to open Monday and last 10 days.

In a statement to MENA before leaving Beirut for Cairo this afternoon, he said the Cairo meeting is significant because it will take place during the transition between U.S. President George Bush's administration and the Clinton administration. This, he added, will provide the opportunity to examine comprehensively all results and positive and negative results of previous negotiations and to draw up a plan for future action in the forthcoming phases of the peace process.

He emphasized Egypt's great eagerness for the peace process to continue in cooperation with all parties, foremost of which are the conference's two sponsors, the United States and the Russian Federation. He said Cairo's contacts with these parties are continuous to bring about a comprehensive and just peace in the region and an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories according to UN resolutions.

Commenting on the outcome of the recent contacts that took place during Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit [to Egypt], Ambassador Moqbil said that, as a party to the current negotiations, Egypt employs all its capabilities and relations to achieve the strategic Arab goals and that a great deal of practical results have been achieved toward continuing the Middle East peace process.

He praised the outcome of the cordon sanitaire foreign ministers conference in Beirut, saying that these results have emphasized the cooperation among all Arab parties. He added that he wanted these countries' agreements to enhance their coordination to reach a formula for a comprehensive solution on all fronts, which was the basic principle at the meetings.

He said all issues concerning the courses of negotiations and the strategy during the first round were discussed seriously and realistically at the foreign ministers meetings to make a comprehensive evaluation of the negative and positive aspects of the results achieved so far. He said they also discussed the prospects of progress on all courses and agreement on the next steps in the region's peace process. He expressed hope that the eighth round of negotiations will make progress to give new impetus to the peace process.

Ambassador Moqbil expressed the view that the Israeli Government's measure to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO is positive and that it might lead to further dialogue and confidence among the parties concerned.

Hizballah Branches Reported in Yemen, Syria, Egypt

NC0712111292 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Dec 92 p 9

[Majdi Mahmoun column: "The Forbidden"]

[Text] I met by chance with the leader of "Hizballah" in Yemen while returning from Tripoli to Cairo after attending a seminar on the air embargo against Libya. Tripoli organizes an annual meeting for intellectuals, and the leader of Yemen's Hizballah attended it. It is probably the first time that the Islamic trend, particularly the pro-Iranian one, has participated in this seminar. I was there to report on the air embargo against Libya.

Like any curious journalist, I asked the leader of the Yemeni Hizballah how widespread this party is in the Arab region, the objectives of this group, whether there is coordination and cooperation between the different groups, and the Yemeni Hizballah's relations with Iran.

I was surprised by the answers of my interlocutor, who was no more than 35. He was more than clear and more than frank. He said Hizballah has branches in many Arab countries—in Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, some Gulf countries, and Egypt. When I expressed surprise that the party has a branch in Egypt, he said: Yes. There is a small party in Cairo.

Knowing the difference between a journalist's job and that of a policeman, I could not ask him about the nature of this group and who controls it. But he added: We, Hizballah, have short-term objectives and strategic ones. Among the short-term ones are resisting world Zionism and fighting Israel. Our strategic objective is to reach power.

On Hizballah's relations with Iran, he said: Activities within Hizballah go on at two levels. The first is that each party has its own plans and objectives. The second is that we are issued direct instructions from Tehran. We are committed to implementing these instructions without thinking or argument. Iran is Hizballah's main headquarters and the others are branches. We are working to achieve our objectives and are using all means, including armed force.

Iran's rulers are deluded if they believe that the strategy of exporting terrorism could possibly succeed in Egypt and enable them to seize power. They are deluded if they think they can exploit the people's sufferings and its lack of confidence in the government and leaders to achieve their aims. This is what differentiates the Egyptian people from other peoples. Treason and plotting are not in the Egyptian people's nature. The current regime, despite its extremism and corruption, cannot be compared to the ayatollahs' regime in Iran.

The government announced through Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif that it will not allow any deviation from the etiquette of democracy. But what can one do if the government deviates from this etiquette? Who will bring Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to account for his deviation from the etiquette of democracy and his attack on the opposition under the parliament's dome?

This is just a question.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns Destruction of Indian Mosque

LD0612223092 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] In Jeddah, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has strongly condemned the destruction of Ayodhya mosque in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, by Hindu extremists, describing it as a criminal act [words indistinct] (in a statement) to AFP in which he said that he regretted that the Indian government had allowed extremists to cause harm to this great Islamic symbol. ICO Secretary General Hamid Algabid also pointed out that the ICO has drawn the Indian government's attention to the seriousness of the situation there on several occasions.

In his statement, the ICO secretary general appealed to the Indian government to protect the life and property of Indian Muslims.

Algabid Welcomes Tajikistan's Membership of ICO

LD0512185092 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Jeddah, 5 Dec (SPA)—Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], met with His Excellency Davlat Usmon, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, at the ICO headquarters in Jeddah today. Mr. Usmon participated in the sixth extraordinary meeting of ICO foreign ministers, which concluded its proceedings in Jeddah on 2 December.

The secretary general congratulated Mr. Usmon on the admission of Tajikistan to membership of the ICO.

During the meeting, the deputy prime minister expressed the feelings of pride of the people and Government of Tajikistan at establishing ties of cooperation and solidarity with ICO member states. He stressed his country's determination to do its utmost to bolster such cooperation.

Dr. Algabid reiterated his regret at the continued disturbances in Tajikistan and the resulting loss of life and destruction in the capital Dushanbe.

It is to be noted that Tajikistan has now become the 51st member state of the ICO.

IRNA Commentary on Albanian Membership in ICO

LD0612184792 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Athens, Dec. 6, IRNA—Albania's membership in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO—Islamic Conference Organization] decided last week in Jeddah, marks an end to an anomaly of over four decades when this tiny Muslim Balkan state was separated from the Islamic ummah by its communist dictators.

The move underscores a definite turning point in the modern history of Albania and the beginning of a new phase in the history of Islam in the Balkans.

During the "dark ages" of Albania, its atheist rules banned the practice of Islam and converted mosques and religious institutions into stables and museums.

Only last year in May the decree banning the practice of religion was rescinded. Forty years of massive state-supported campaign to propagate Atheism and communism has left its indelible mark on the Albanian Muslims, particularly upon the large disoriented youth.

Thousands of Albanian refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries in search for a better living are a mirror of this vicious brainwashing.

In Greece for example, the Albanian refugees have been dubbed as the "Mafia." They are blamed for all ills, and seem to be suffering from a vacuum in their souls for lack of religious upbringing.

Now that the missing-link has been restored, the revival of Islam in Europe's only Muslim-majority state has started.

Albania's attachment to the OIC will open doors for cooperation and solidarity with the larger world Muslim family.

A heavy responsibility lies on the shoulders of the Muslim world towards Albania. The West has threatened Tirana that its OIC membership would jeopardize its European orientation and damage its interests. Europe will not leave any stone unturned to stop the Islamic revival in Albania.

The Islamic world must adopt a coherent and coordinated programme and properly thought-out strategy for Albania. It must not be allowed to fall prey to petty self-interests and short-sighted influences by this or that Muslim country.

Economically, Albania's future is not very rosy. Tirana is trying to develop trade and economic links with Europe, but lack of mineral sources, poor infrastructure, backward telecommunication and transport links with other states are just some of the problems it faces.

The Muslim world should, however, concentrate both on the bruised spirit and the broken bones of Albania.

At the same time Tirana must not be allowed to start living on handouts of Europe which would exercise tremendous control over its policies.

Elsewhere in the Balkans there is a considerable concentration of the Muslim populations. Bulgaria has large Muslim minority. The Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina

is overwhelmingly Muslim, it even has a Muslim president. The Serbian-occupied Kosovo province is 90 percent Muslim, as is Sandjak which is also ruling under Serbian occupation. After Bosnia, over three million Muslims in Kosovo, Macedonia and Sandjak are under the threat of slaughter.

The Serbs and Greeks, both practicing Orthodox Christianity, consider themselves natural allies against what they see as the "devilish Muslim axis" emerging in the Balkans.

If Albania is stabilized as a Muslim country the large Muslim population in the Balkans would feel more secure and safe. On the other hand the Islamic world will also have a voice in Europe.

The Muslim world faces a daunting task ahead, but Islam in Albania has to be saved at all costs.

Palestinian Affairs

Negotiators To Attend Talks in Washington 7 Dec

NC0112120792 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Bayt Miri, Lebanon, Dec 5 (AFP)—Palestinian negotiators will attend peace talks with Israel beginning Monday in Washington but the official decision will come from PLO headquarters in Tunis on Saturday, a senior delegate said here.

Feysal al-Husseyni, the leading Palestinian in the occupied territories, said after a meeting of the Arab parties to the eighth round of negotiations that the Palestinians "cannot not participate and must keep up a unified Arab position."

But the Palestinians plan to boycott the ninth bilateral session which may be set for January 5 or 6 in Washington unless progress is achieved, a source close to t.e team said Friday.

Al-Husseyni had said before the meeting opened in this northeastern mountain resort that the Washington talks would result in "welcome" and he described as "hasty" the decision by Lebanon, Syria and Jordan to attend them.

Sa'ib Uraiqat the Palestinian delegation's number two, told AFP his team would leave Saturday for Tunis where the official decision on the next round would be announced.

Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, the other Arab participants in the negotiations, have said they will attend the eighth round of talks.

The Palestinians had sought to delay that round until after Bill Clinton takes office as U.S. President on January 20.

Participants at the Arab meeting also told AFP that U.S. President George Bush planned on holding the ninth round of bilateral talks on January 5 or 6, before Clinton moves into the White House.

During their discussions here, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan stressed it would be impossible to postpone the talks two days before they are set to start and underlined the importance of pursuing the peace process which began with a conference in Madrid in October 1991, several participants said.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir said it was still possible to decide on Arab absention from the talks between the eighth and ninth sessions, a source at the Bayt Miri discussions said.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told reporters he regretted the lack of progress to date at the peace negotiations "due to the persistence of the Israeli position in refusing to implement United Nations resolutions and the bases on which the peace process is founded."

He added that the next Arab meeting on the peace talks would be held in Cairo on a date to be set later.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar', who headed his country's delegation, confirmed to reporters before his departure for Damascus the Palestinians' participation, saying that "the Arab point of view had convinced them."

"The Arab parties meeting in Beirut have adopted a unified position regarding participation at the next bilateral session...the Palestinians will brief their leadership in Tunis," he added.

But a statement read by Buwayz at the end of the meetings made no mention of the Palestinian position, reflecting the Palestinian delegation's lack of enthusiasm, a Lebanese source said.

Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir 'Arafat meanwhile received an urgent message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak underlining the importance of Palestinian attendance at the Washington talks, the PLO's representative in Cairo told AFP Saturday.

Mubarak recently voiced opposition to any Arab withdrawal from the bilateral discussions, saying they "would demonstrate impotence."

Abu-Mazin Confirms Participation

JN0812144292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Manama, 6 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, has said that the Palestinians will participate in the eighth round of bilateral talks with Israel, due to begin in the U.S. capital of Washington tomorrow, Monday.

In a statement published by the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM today, Abu-Mazin said that the Palestinian delegation would not present any new proposals during

the eighth round, but that it would reschedule its proposal regarding authority during the transitional self-rule period. He pointed out that the talks might provide an opportunity to conduct further dialogue and approximate viewpoints. However, he ruled out any big steps or serious changes during this round.

Abu-Mazin also said that *since* the start of negotiations, the Israelis have rejected the Palestinian delegation's demand for discussing the issue of human rights in the occupied territories, the releasing of [Palestinian] detainees, and an end to violations of Palestinian rights.

The Palestinian official described the Israeli Knesset's tentative agreement to rescind the law banning contacts with the PLO as a positive step, which was pledged by the Labor Party before assuming authority. He said that if this pledge is carried out, it will be the first electoral promise honored by the Labor Party.

'Limited' Delegation To Be Sent

NC0612085492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Tunis, 6 Dec (MENA)—The Palestinian leadership has decided to send a limited number of Palestinian negotiators to Washington to participate in the eighth round of peace talks, due to begin on 7 December. The delegation will be led by Chairman Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

The Palestinian leadership adopted this decision during a meeting that ended at dawn today.

A statement this morning by an official PLO spokesman said that following the all-night meeting, the Palestinian leadership adopted a decision "to send a limited delegation." He said this proceeded from its wish to tell the United States and Russia, the peace process sponsors, of the obstacles that Israel is placing in the path of progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

The Palestinian spokesman added that the limited Palestinian delegation will ask the U.S. sponsor to effectively intervene to prevent the collapse of the peace negotiations, which has become doubtful due to the Israeli stance to partition the land and support a legitimate character to the occupation.

The official spokesman said that the Palestinian delegation, under Dr. Hayder 'Abd-al-Shafi's chairmanship, will communicate with the other Arab delegations participating in the peace negotiations. This decision is in keeping with the decisions of the meeting held by the Arabian states and Egypt two days ago which stressed that the lack of actual progress in the negotiations poses a threat to the political process.

He added that in light of these considerations the Palestinian leadership will determine its future steps regarding the Middle East's political process.

Official Spokesman on Delegation

LD0812193592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] An official PLO spokesman has stated the following: In its commitment to the peace process, and in order to secure the conditions of success and continuity for this process, the Palestinian leadership has decided that a limited number of members of the Palestinian delegation, led by Dr. Hayder 'Abd-al-Shafi, should go to Washington to participate in the current round of the negotiations, and to discuss with the U.S. and Russian cosponsors of the conference the obstacles set up by Israel on the way to any progress in the political process concerning the Palestinian issue. These obstacles have remained in the Israeli plan [as heard], which violates the bases of the Madrid conference and President Bush's initiative, and in the continuous procrastination that has gone beyond the time limit set for the negotiations.

The members who are to go to Washington will urge the U.S. sponsor to intervene effectively to prevent the collapse of the political process, now that it has reached a deadlock due to the Israeli position, which seeks partitioning of the land and the sanctioning of occupation. There also will be contacts with the fraternal Arab delegations for further coordination and common consultation in accordance with what was decided at the five-sided coordination meeting in Beirut, which stressed that a second failure to reach progress would lead to a threat to the political process. In light of this consultations, the Palestinian leadership will decide on next steps for dealing with the political process.

'Ashrawi Discusses Strategy'

JN0612201292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab; place and date not given—first paragraph is Jordan Television introduction]

[Text] The first meeting in the eighth round of bilateral talks between Arab and Israeli delegations will begin at the U.S. State Department in Washington tomorrow. This round will last until 24 December. It was announced that the number of Palestinian delegation members at this round has been reduced in protest of Israel's intransigence.

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Can we conclude from Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi's words that the eighth round will be a public relations round, in light of the transitional phase and the limited Palestinian delegation?

[Ashrawi] Answering the seventh round and preparing for the eighth round were not aimed at delaying the process until President-elect Clinton assumes power. We do not rely on the American position as a basis for our movement or for Palestinian strategy. This is not a public relations round but a round of a very delicate and

important political coordination. It will decide the march, especially in light of the position, the responsibility, and the role of the sponsor state in the future. The Israeli side should realize that there will be no progress as long as it tampers with the bases and authority of this call and makes impractical proposals, which conflict with international legitimacy and Palestinian rights.

[Dhiyab] What will the Palestinian delegation propose during this round?

['Ashrawi] There are basic issues that still constitute the subject of dispute, especially those pertaining to the land, authority over it, and the geographical dimension. There is also the issue of legislation, power, and authority during the transitional Palestinian self-rule. There are also other basic issues related to human rights. [end recording]

Officials Question Value of Continued Talks

Negotiating 'Impasse' Cited

TA0412150992 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Dec 92 pp 1, 15

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Gaza—Palestinian delegates to the peace talks are expected to leave on 4 December for the eighth round of talks, scheduled in Washington for 7 December. Some local politicians claim that this round comes after one marked by pessimism.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said: We will continue with the negotiating impasse until the new administration takes over so that we can determine its stand is on this negotiating crisis, which has failed to make any breakthrough.

On his expectations after U.S. President-elect Clinton assumes power, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi answered: There might be some changes. The issue depends on commitment to and respect for international law, human rights charters, and UN resolutions. There is neither ambiguity nor complications.

On the possibility that the Clinton administration might pressure Israel, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi asked: Is commitment to law and legitimacy something odd? We hope that governments and institutions will rise to their responsibilities.

With regard to the Jordanian-Israeli draft and whether he considers it the beginning of separate solutions, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: No. We are confident that there are no separate solutions on any of the other tracks. There is Arab coordination for a comprehensive solution.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi denied the existence of any division within the PLO on continuing the negotiations. He said that all issues are reviewed through open dialogue on the basis of the views of the majority.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's remarks about his readiness to implement Resolution 242 after the transitional stage, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that by those statements Israel is seeking to cover up its position, which does not adhere to what it proposes at the negotiating table.

On the possibility of changes among members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: There will be changes and modifications as the need arises.

Talks 'Will Not Achieve Anything'

LD0412180092 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has said that the outcome of the last two rounds of peace talks with Israel in Washington has been zero and that the Israelis have not come up with anything that would encourage continuing with the negotiations. 'Arafat pointed out in a press statement that the PLO has been conducting intense contacts with the United States, Russia, and a number of Arab governments in this respect.

Faysal al-Husayni, one of the most important Palestinian personalities inside the occupied Arab territories, has said that the bilateral negotiations scheduled to take place in Washington 7-17 December will not achieve anything.

Round May Be 'Waste of Time'

JN0812100292 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Dec 92 p 29

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Dr. Tayir 'Aruri, deputy head of the advisory council to the Palestinian delegation [to the Arab-Israeli peace talks], has denied any changes in the delegation taking part in the upcoming eighth round, scheduled to begin in Washington on 7 December. The only change in the team's composition, he added, will be the addition of lawyer 'Ali al-Safarini, a real estate expert. Dr. 'Aruri stressed that the Palestinian delegation enjoyed complete harmony and unity throughout the seventh round of talks.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y, Dr. 'Aruri said that the question of whether or not the Palestinians will take part in the upcoming eighth round depends on contacts the Palestinians are currently making with various concerned parties, especially the U.S. Government.

He added: In light of the results of the seventh round of talks in Washington and after revealing the reality and details of the Israeli plan for a transitional stage, which is aimed at sharing occupied Palestinian territory in preparation for an Israeli annexation of the land on which settlements have been built; after a total rejection of this plan by the Palestinian delegation; and in order to extricate the negotiations from this dilemma, the U.S. sponsor should translate its statements into deeds and the contents of the U.S. letter of

assurances to the Palestinians into practical measures, especially if it is really concerned with the success of the negotiations and with reaching a comprehensive and just solution in the region.

Dr. 'Aruri said that the issue requires the United States take necessary measures to commit Israel to adhere to the fundamentals and terms of reference for the negotiations, and offer ideas or plans that are compatible with these principles. Measures should also be taken to build confidence toward our people living in occupied Palestinian territory. He said that without providing all of that, the upcoming eighth round may be nothing more than a waste of time and effort.

Responding to a question, the deputy head of the Palestinian delegation's advisory council called on people not to be pessimistic about the advent of the Democratic administration in the United States. Foreign policy for a country like the United States enjoys relative stability and is based on U.S. strategic interests in the region. Hence, there should be some sort of continuation of this policy.

Dr. 'Aruri added: This was expressed by President-elect Clinton in public statements in which he stressed that he will give priority in U.S. foreign policy to the issue of Middle East peace talks, which is one of five foreign policy issues he mentioned at the time. Moreover, it is well known that Democratic administrations in the United States pay more attention to issues of human rights and democracy abroad, and are more sensitive to such issues.

Concluding his interview with AL-RA'Y, Dr. 'Aruri said: It is no secret to anyone that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, in particular, and those in the diaspora, in general, are the ones who are most victimized by human rights violations in the modern world.

Factions Call for Withdrawal

NC0512115992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, and Samir Ghawshah's Palestinian Popular Struggle Front have issued a joint statement calling on the Palestinian delegation to withdraw from the Arab-Israeli talks and not to participate in the eighth round of negotiations in line with the wish of millions of Palestinians. These factions called for holding a comprehensive popular referendum on the progress of the negotiations and whether they should be continued. They noted that the Palestinian people have already rejected these negotiations.

'Obstacles' to Agreement Cited

NC0512222292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2054 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh has said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is a major obstacle to the peace process due to his hard-line positions, which are not in harmony with the age in which we live.

The difference between Rabin and former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is in appearance rather than substance, Subayh said. He added that the two men cling to Arab land and refuse to fully withdraw from that land. Rabin wants to divide Arab ranks by suggesting that Israel is holding separate deals with each Arab side, Subayh said. This came in a speech Subayh delivered tonight at the third session of the symposium organized by the Cairo University Political Research Center under the slogan "Arab-Israeli negotiations and the future of peace in the Middle East."

Subayh said that the PLO calls for Israel's full withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the implementation of UN resolutions, and the return of the refugees.

The PNC secretary said that most of the proposals made by the Israeli delegation are unacceptable. Subayh pointed out that the Israeli delegation expressed Israel's willingness to withdraw from Gaza and agreed to the participation of the Palestinians living outside the homeland in the multilateral talks. The Israeli delegation's ideas about the occupied land, however, were alarming. The Israeli delegation divides the occupied Arab territories into three categories:

First, Palestinian land, namely the areas with a dense Palestinian population;

Second, Israeli land, namely the settlements and Jerusalem; and

Third, joint land, namely the land belonging to religious endowments or the state.

Subayh said there are major obstacles facing the Palestinian- Israeli peace talks, particularly with regard to Jerusalem. The Palestinian side refuses any compromise on Jerusalem's being Arab. Other obstacles include the issue of the Palestinian settlements in the occupied territories and control over water and other resources in these territories.

Subayh mentioned that the Israeli side has reached an agreement of principles with the Jordanian side and is on its way to reaching another agreement with the Syrian side. He pointed out that the Palestinian side has objected to some of the clauses of the Israeli-Jordanian agreement on principles, particularly those concerning the status of Jerusalem, the solution of the refugees problem, and the lack of mention of the states of the occupied Arab territories. As a result, the Jordanians refused to sign the agreement.

The PNC secretary said that the U.S. role in the peace talks has been sluggish. The United States, he asserted, has not met the promises it made in the letter of assurances it gave to the Palestinian side. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the same session, PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani said that the United States is still giving Israel unlimited support, referring to the $10 billion in loan guarantees that the United States gave to Israel to help it settle a million Jews in the occupied land.

Al-Surani said that the essence of the Palestinian problem is the refugees and the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. He added that the issue of withdrawal from the occupied territories is a major and essential one to the Palestinians, for it makes all the difference as to whether the Palestinians will have a homeland and an identity.

Al-Surani said it would be disastrous if Israel were to succeed in signing a peace agreement with the Jordanians that is not in harmony with Palestinian interests, pointing out that Jordan has been suggested as a substitute state for the Palestinian homeland and that 3 million Palestinians live in Jordan.

'Arafat Calls for Resumption of Dialogue With U.S.

NC0412140992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has called for the resumption of dialogue between the United States and the PLO. 'Arafat says in an AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I interview today that his congratulatory cable to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton calls on him to work to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories from the continuing Israeli violations of human rights. He said that the United States has not yet intervended in the peace negotiations as required. He added that despite the fact that a year has passed since the start of the Madrid conference for peace in the Middle East and the negotiations, "the transitional self-administration government" [al-hukumah al-dhatiyah al-intiqaliyah] has not yet been declared, as provided in the letters of invitation to the Madrid conference.

'Arafat said that there is full agreement among the Arab parties participating in the peace talks that the solution must be "comprehensive and fair" and must consider the interests and rights of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. He said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's policy does not differ from that of his predecessor, Yitzhaq Shamir, and that the Israeli plan aimed at preventing any progress in the Palestinian track is "firm and unchanged."

On his announcement that he is ready to meet with Rabin, 'Arafat said that he wanted to show that Israel and its leaders are not serious about achieving peace. He added: "I want to make peace with enemies, as Salah-al-Din did with Richard the Lion Heart and as Algerian revolutionaries did with De Gaulle. I am looking for a De Gaulle in Israel, but I have not found him."

'Arafat expressed his deep appreciation of the great role being played by Egypt and President Husni Mubarak to render the Middle East peace process a success.

On differences among Palestinian factions—particularly between Fatah and Hamas—and their effect on the Palestinian march and peace negotiations, 'Arafat said that reports on the Hamas Movement exaggerate its size in the Palestinian arena. He noted that the clash that occurred was not between Hamas and Fatah but between Hamas and the Palestinian people in the occupied territories after Hamas resorted to violence. He praised plurality in the PLO within a democratic framework in making sound decisions.

'Arafat: Intifadah 'Strong Prop' for Negotiations

LD0712121792 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0955 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tunis, 7 Dec (MAP)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state and PLO Executive Committee chairman, told Radio Tunisia that he accuses Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of deception, noting: "All his talk of peace is mere deceptive words, while he acts with the mentality of the military man who voluntarily joined Yitzhaq Shamir, the former foreign minister in the invasion of Lebanon, the Beirut siege, and the crimes that were committed against the Lebanese and Palestinians which claimed the lives of 72,000 Martyrs."

In an interview with Radio Tunisia's "Arab Events" program today on the occasion of the intifadah's fifth anniversary, 'Arafat said that Rabin was the author of the "Iron Fist" policy to suppress the intifadah and that he was the one who gave the order to "break the bones" of the children of the stones. He was also the commander of the special forces which go around terrifying the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories.

However, 'Arafat affirmed that the intifadah is an extension of the Palestine revolution and has come to stay and will continue, one wave after another, until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem. President 'Arafat described the current stage of the intifadah as the stage of preparation for civil disobedience which will be costly and which will represent the sixth stage of the intifadah.

'Arafat denied that inter-Palestinian differences have affected the intifadah, which he said is "more profound than any differences." He added that the Palestinian people are capable of facing up to all the plots that aim at halting and silencing them, which are taking place without international help. [sentence as received]

Answering a question on the call to suspend the intifadah during the Middle East peace talks, 'Arafat categorically rejected this, pointing out that the intifadah will stop only when the occupation ends and that the intifadah is a supportive element for the negotiations. He said: "We negotiate and fight, and we negotiate and resist. Here lies the strength of the Palestinian negotiator who relies only on the stone of the intifadah. The intifadah is a strong prop for the negotiations."

With regard to the outcome of the negotiations which will resume tomorrow, the Palestinian president said: "We are not afraid to tell ourselves frankly that after seven rounds, the negotiations have resulted in nothing at all. We must be frank because the trust of the people in us demands this." He noted that the opposite side has been manoeuvring to normalize Arab-Israeli relations at the expense of Palestinian rights. He reiterated the Palestinian people's refusal to concede any of their rights.

Abu-Sharif on Egypt's Role, Hopes for Clinton

NC0712130492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tunis, 7 Dec (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has affirmed that Egypt's and President Husni Mubarak's role in the peace process is dynamic and effective. He said this role is very important, because Egypt is the largest Arab state and is the most important on the Arab and international levels. Egypt is also the only country that has signed a peace agreement with Israel and can persuade Israel to move forward in the peace negotiations.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Abu-Sharif said the Palestinians hope the results of the eighth round of peace negotiations will be positive and serve as a pivot for the next round under the administration of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton.

Abu-Sharif said he hoped the Bush Administration will use every available means to persuade the Israeli Government of the need to move forward, implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and accept the establishment of a Palestinian self-government.

Abu-Sharif affirmed that all the Arab parties in the peace negotiations know of Israel's gambles and attempts to cause a rift in Arab ranks. He also noted there is of full coordination among the Arab parties.

He said he hoped U.S. President Bush will end his term with a decision to restore the dialogue with the PLO.

Abu-Sharif added that President-elect Clinton is surrounded by veteran experts on Middle East affairs who know that the solution lies in Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the normalization of relations between Israel and the Arabs states and that this will contribute to promoting the peace process and implementing the UN Security Council resolutions.

The Palestinian official acknowledged that the Israeli Knesset's decision to end the ban on contacts with the PLO is regarded as a fresh opportunity to inject new life into the peace negotiations through direct contacts between Israel and the PLO.

Abu-Sharif expected this decision to open the way to parliamentary and official Palestinian-Israeli-Arab meetings and to a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and a senior PLO official that would, in turn, lead to a summit meeting between 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin.

Mubarak Said To Send 'Arafat 'Urgent' Message

NC0512110292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0908 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Tunis, 5 Dec (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have stated that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat received last night a private and urgent message from President Husni Mubarak dealing with the ongoing peace process and the importance of the Palestinian delegation's participation in the coming eighth round of bilateral talks.

The sources added that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa conveyed the message during a telephone call with president 'Arafat, who expressed his thanks to President Mubarak for his interest in whatever concerns the peace process, the interests of the Palestinian people and their just cause, and the issue of Jerusalem. The Palestinian sources noted that the Palestinian leadership will announce today its decision on participating in the eighth round of peace talks, which is scheduled to open in Washington on Monday.

DFLP Protests Hawatimah Storming of Syrian Office

JN0512192592 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Statement by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP); place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Several armed groups affiliated with Nayif Hawatimah stormed the DFLP's central bureau at al-Yarmuk Camp, in Damascus, at 0500 on 3 December, the eve of the Beirut ministerial meeting of Arab partners at the Washington talks. These armed groups were still occupying the bureau as of this morning.

The Hawatimah group's armed aggression on the eve of the Beirut meeting is a desperate attempt to scuttle the ongoing coordination between the Syrian Government and the PLO. This is especially so given that Comrade Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, secretary general of the DFLP and PLO Executive Committee member, heads the Palestinian delegation to the Beirut session. By reverting to the seizure of DFLP offices in Syria—a practice that was brought to a halt two years ago—this breakaway group furnishes fresh evidence of its political bankruptcy. This group suffers from internal erosion and severe isolation within the ranks of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland and in the diaspora, including our Palestinian people's camps in Syria. The seizure by Hawatimah's groups of another bureau at al-Yarmuk Camp will only exacerbate their isolation. Meanwhile, our comrades in Syrian camps will pursue their struggle, and we will stick to our unionist policies and [words indistinct] especially the independence of our national decisionmaking.

Algeria

Curfew Goes Into Effect in 7 Provinces

LD0512230892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] The curfew went into force 30 minutes ago, for the first day. The curfew will end at 0500 every day and affects seven provinces: Algiers, Boumerdes, Tipasa, Blida, Medea, Bouira, and Ain Defla.

To ensure that public services are not interrupted, workers and vehicles of those sectors mentioned in the statement of the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities are allowed movement during the curfew. They must carry a work card and an official permit provided by the legally qualified authorities.

To cope with cases of utmost emergency, the ministry has made certain telephone numbers available, at security and gendarmerie centers in the provinces subject to the curfew.

The Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities have not indicated when the curfew might be lifted completely.

Minister Supports U.S.-Leading Somali Operation

LD0512103992 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] All those who were grumbling against an American predominance within the Somali operation seem to have changed their minds. "One could not do otherwise," thinks, for example, the Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi, who was interviewed by Olivier Dellage:

[Begin Brahimi recording] It is no secret that the decision caused certain doubts particularly in the Third World countries because the Americans are intervening practically alone, but it is very difficult to say no to measures aimed at promoting moral causes: allowing food and medicine to reach people threatened by death. I believe that a formula was found enabling the Americans, because it is they who have the means, to mobilize a large force to intervene under the UN flag even if the command is American and with international participation alongside the Americans. Quickly, this will become a United Nations and, if you want, normal operation. [end recording]

Minister Announces Appointments in Oran Wilaya

LD0512211592

[Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1936 GMT on 5 December, following the news bulletin, broadcasts a 13-minute speech by Mohamed Hardi, minister of the interior and local communities, which he delivered when appointing officials at Oran wilaya.

The minister highlights the government's future plans to introduce administrative reforms; he briefly recalls the idea behind the imposition of a curfew in seven wilayas. The minister says:

"Regarding the sphere of security, which is also considered among the priorities, the government is trying to put an end to all the negative phenomena that are obstructing the march of the country toward a better future."

Hardi agreed that the government's primary aim is to defeat terrorist groups as soon as possible. "However, the principle and essential aim is to eradicate the causes which yield terrorism and its sources. We are aware that terrorism relies on an apparatus for the production and propagation of terrorism," the minister stresses.

The minister adds that "on this point, one should talk about school, institutions of education, and pedagogical syllabus, some of which nourish our children, youth, and future generations with a school of thought which is completely alien to our history, civilization, and origin. They are threatening the future of those generations and that of the nation as a whole which aspire for progress, development in the era of science, technology, and modernism in accordance with our pure religion. We should purify the school from these poisonous and scheming ideas, and put an end to the cancer that has befallen it."

The minister reiterates the Government's determination and resolve to ease the citizen's political, social, and economic problems. He recalls measures already introduced in this connection. He appeals to everyone to join the government in helping to rebuild a strong and firm Algeria.

In conclusion, Mohamed Hardi announces the appointment of the following officials in Oran wilaya:

Belarbi Kadri: Governor of Oran wilaya.

Tahar Belkiri: Delegate-governor in charge of public order and security.

Mohamed Tahar Jellali: secretary general of Oran wilaya.

More Than 100 'Terrorists' Surrender

LD0412185692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Who are the people who have given themselves up to the authorities so far in order to benefit from the provisions of Article 40? The ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE [APS] has attempted to answer this question in the following analysis, which is read for us by Rachid Benhamimid:

[Benhamimid] Article 40 of the anti-terrorism act has opened the door to over 100 individuals involved in subversive actions and wanted by the security forces to

surrender to the gendarmerie and the judicial authorities. Nine out of the 105 who have given themselves up were remanded in custody because of their involvement in killings and will benefit from reduced sentences. The remaining 96 were released after being interrogated. This number does not include the people who have given themselves up to the police but who have not yet provided any details on the matter, according to APS. [passage omitted]

The figures have shown that the majority of the people who chose to come out of hiding are those who were indirectly involved in criminal acts. The APS notes that no group leader is among those who have given themselves up and that most of them are fairly well-educated, three-quarters of them have university qualifications and nearly half of them are teachers, according to the gendarmerie.

These people, whose ages range from 28 to 35 and the majority of whom live in the eastern part of the country, decided to give themselves up either to avoid committing further offences or because they could not longer bear living underground. The overwhelming majority of these young people come from families opposed to terrorism. Some of them were even encouraged by their parents and relatives to get in touch with the security forces.

Even if the number of those who have given themselves up is not very high, sociologists are satisfied with it. [sentence as heard] When added to the number of people in detention, which is put at about 1,200, the number of people who have surrendered is important for observers of Algerian society.

The decision to give themselves up is explained, according to experts, by the fact that these young people, who on the whole have a good education, are intelligent enough to think straight and take time for self-examination. The experts add that the fact that they were rejected by their families for choosing terrorism might have encouraged them to make the decision to give themselves up. This analysis could help us understand why no leader of the armed groups has given himself up yet.

According to the gendarmerie, the Armed Islamic Movement deliberately appointed people with a poor education at the head of these groups in order to avoid any risk of opposition or rebellion. These experts also said that anyone who gives himself up is very unlikely to commit any offences in the future, since his decision to reconcile himself with society was well-thought-out.

Egypt

'Extreme Tension' Cited in Relations With Iran

Ambassador in Tehran Withdrawn

NC0612204492 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 2025 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Ambassador Ahmad Naniq, head of the Egyptian interests section in Tehran, has been transferred to one of the Foreign Ministry departments in Cairo. His mission in Iran is over.

Ambassador Naniq arrived at Cairo Airport today from Iran and refused to make any statements. He merely commented that his return to Cairo is final. The decision to transfer the ambassador has been taken amid the extreme tension in Egyptian-Iranian relations after the Tehran rulers attacked Egypt and created a crisis between the two countries.

Commentary Condemns 'Persian Devil'

NC0612092792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Ahmad al-Razzaz commentary: "This is Not Egypt's Character"]

[Text] Egypt of Islam, peace, and love does not know anyone who operates through treason and conspiracy or who collaborates with the homeland's enemies against the people of this cherished land.

It is not the character of dignified and glorious Egypt for anyone to take up arms to assassinate with treason and betrayal a fellow citizen who defends this homeland's security and stability. Egypt of Islam does not know anyone who trades in Islam, whose vileness has stooped to the point of hiding behind the cloak of religion to shed the blood of the innocent to obey Satan and disobey God and noble ideals.

This traitor, who belongs to the black terrorism gang, treacherously assassinated the most courageous citizen who watched over this homeland's security and stability. It is an aggression, betrayal, and treason against the entire Egyptian people, because it is high treason against the Egyptian homeland and people. Its aim is to damage the stability and peace with which Egypt has been distinguished over the ages.

Egypt of Islam and peace managed over the ages to challenge invaders and tyrants and to purge its land of traitors. With faith and by cherishing dignity, Egypt has always been able to keep its head high and never allowed any power, no matter what, to dominate it or to control its resolutions. Thus, Egypt has been the state of freedom and vanquished the invaders and the greedy. It is now facing up to malicious conspirers who overlook the truth and seem to forget that Egypt is the beating heart of both the Arab and Islamic nations.

Egypt, with its loyal sons, is the one that vanquished the crusaders and the Mongols. Egypt of Islam and peace is the warrior over the ages for the sake of civilization. It never knew aggression, hegemony, or domination. Throughout history, Egypt has been the defender of right, justice, and values and has confronted aggression and injustices. Egypt today enjoys freedom, strength, and dignity and advocates love and peace. Egypt never knew dealings through conspiracies or black terrorism.

Therefore, the conspiracy Egypt faces is a confrontation with those malicious conspirers who depend in their dealing with other countries and nations on schemes of

hegemony. By carrying out these dreadful plots, the malicious conspirers recruit these timid-spirited traitors, who have lost loyalty and allegiance to their country, have sold themselves to the devil, and have implemented ugly crimes against the dearest Egyptian people, the guardians of safety, stability, and peace.

The hand that reached out to martyr 'Ali Khatir [a police officer recently killed by a terrorist] is the hand of the devil that has stooped to the abyss of high treason against this cherished homeland. No peace should be made with these filthy hands who should not even be confronted [as heard]. Rather, the entire Egyptian people are required to uproot these traitors from the chaste Egyptian soil, because confrontation has become futile with those who sold themselves to the devil. The only thing to do is to eradicate this phenomenon of treason. The Egyptian nation, with its faith and ethics and its enthusiasm, apparent during the martyr's funeral ceremony, is capable of eradicating this phenomenon.

Egyptian patriotism was apparent at that time of grief and sorrow, when the Egyptian people bid farewell to one of its pious sons, assassinated by the conspiring hands of betrayal, treason, and meanness collaborating with the devil.

In this respect, we tell the Persian devil, the mullahs, who rely on terrorism as a means of implementing their schemes, that Egypt, with its sons, will continue to defend itself and the Arabs and Muslims against your ills and conspiracy. We also tell them that the lessons learned from Algeria, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Bahrain, and elsewhere have awakened the Arab and Islamic nations to the reality of your hegemony and domination policy. This is a policy you want to impose through the dens of espionage and black terrorism and by recruiting agents and squandering Muslims' funds on hostile plots and using millions of dollars worth of weapons for aggression.

Finally, we tell the Persian devil and the Tehran mullahs that free and democratic Egypt will not be dissuaded from confronting your devilish conspiracy and black terrorism. Egypt will remain the bastion that defends right, justice, and noble values. After the enormous popular plebiscite that appeared in the farewell of martyr 'Ali Khatir, Egypt will confront terrorism and uproot all its forms. The Egyptian people are able to sever the hands that reach them with terrorism.

Iran's 'Desire to Dominate' Cited

NC0612004192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1252 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—A responsible Egyptian source has attributed Iran's attack on Egypt to the Iranian mentality, which is still governed by the norms of Arab-Persian rivalry and motivated by aspirations and desire to dominate and control the Gulf region and, if possible, to expand to cover other areas beyond the Gulf region.

The source said in a statement today that Iran attacks Egypt because Egypt is the regional power qualified historically, culturally, and religiously to confront Iran's aspirations in the region.

The source emphasized that if Iran believes it can use religion as a tool to influence the passions of the nations suffering from development problems, as those who hold atheist ideologies such as Marxism did, Egypt's intellectual and religious scholarship heritage is capable of uncovering the falsehood of this religious opportunism the banner of which is raised by the eyesnibbs.

In addition, Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah, head of the People's Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee, has stressed that Egypt rejects the method of Iran's domination of the Arab Gulf states.

In a statement to MENA, he said Iran is working to distance Egypt from defending the Gulf states after Egypt's strength and determination to defend these countries was proven. This, he added, materialized during the Kuwaiti-Iraqi crisis, proceeding from Egypt's respect for international legitimacy and principles and prompt responsiveness to its Arab brothers.

He noted that Iran is trying to stir up trouble and disturbances in Egypt in order to suggest that the internal situation is unstable and to stop Gulf states from asking Egypt for assistance. Iran, he said, helps terrorist elements inside Egypt and works to extend its influence to Africa through its presence in Sudan. In addition, it attempts to extend its domination to Asia through its attempt to influence the internal situation in the former Soviet Islamic republics and Afghanistan. Iran's aim, he added, is to give an impression to the world that it is a big and important power, something which would have an impact on the Arab countries generally and on the Gulf states especially.

Dr. 'Abdallah remarked that Iran's new methods represent a show of force and an attempt to impose hegemony. He said that these practices grow more arbitrary after the signing of the Damascus Declaration between Egypt, Syria, and the six Gulf states. Iran, he noted, believed that this Declaration would affect its expansionist schemes and attempts to impose hegemony and control over the region's countries.

He called for reviving [Ihya'] and giving new impetus to the Damascus Declaration so that it can be implemented; otherwise, it will turn into one of the Arab League's numerous dead documents that have never seen the light of day.

He asserted that Iran seeks to utilize Arab disagreement to infiltrate the region at the expense of Arabs' interests. Therefore, he added, Arab differences should be resolved in a civilized and brotherly manner under the Arab League umbrella and according to international legitimacy.

Dr. 'Abdallah said the Iranian regime wants to interfere in the neighboring countries' internal affairs and seeks to

export the Iranian revolution with a view to taking exclusive control of the Arab Gulf region. Iran has utilized the former Soviet Union's bad economic conditions and purchases arms to appear as a militarily strong country and to facilitate the imposition of hegemony, domination, and blackmail, he concluded.

Somali Factions Meeting Termed 'Turning Point'

NC0612221292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Ambassador Ibrahim 'Awf, assistant to the foreign minister and head of the Egyptian delegation to the meeting of the Somali factions that was held in Addis Ababa last week, has said that the results of the meeting are considered a turning point in the Somali crisis. He said the meeting for the first time included a large number of political leaders and the elders of the Somali tribes who entrust Mohamed Bidar, one of the Somali leaders, to speak on their behalf.

Ambassador 'Awf expressed their welcome of the UN Security Council's latest resolution on establishing a unified force in Somalia and dispatching UN forces to ensure the arrival of humanitarian aid to the needy.

Foreign Minister on Situation in Somalia

NC0612160092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the current situation in Somalia is extremely tense and disturbed. He said that the events in Somalia are the outcome of an internal plot hatched against the Somali state. It is not a foreign act of aggression that threatens the Somali people and their present and future, Musa added. He emphasized that the repercussions of these events will reflect on the entire Horn of Africa.

In a statement before the Arab Affairs Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee, and the National Security Committee of the People's Assembly, Musa said that, since the start of the Somalia crisis, Egypt has called for reconciliation and accord. He said that a reconciliation conference was held in Djibouti and another conference somewhere else. He noted that the first as well as the second conference failed to establish the Somali Government.

The foreign minister said that 1992 was replete with political activity, adding that the launching of the peace process contains some positive factors and could be considered one of the achievements that aimed at restoring Palestinian land.

As regards the Arab cordon states' meetings, the foreign minister said that there is no mechanism for these meetings, but that they should not be left to chance. He added that there is an agreement to hold a coordination meeting between the sides in Cairo.

Touching on the Damascus Declaration, the foreign minister said that the declaration is faltering but has not reached the point of death yet and could be revived. He said that the declaration could serve as a new document reached after the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, and is aimed at achieving specific objectives based on a new Arab concept regarding the various security, political, and economic aspects. Musa said that there is no link between the conclusion of security accords between a number of Gulf states and foreign countries and the obstructing [ta'til] of the Damascus Declaration. We hope that the declaration will be reconsidered.

Pointing to the Iranian military support for Sudan, 'Amr Musa said: Many are talking about this issue, and in my opinion Sudan, being a fraternal, independent, and sovereign state, is free to establish relations with any country. Sudan is an Arab and neighboring country and should be responsible not to spread tension. I do not want to accuse Iran, but there are a lot of suspicions involved. There should be dialogue because Iran is a fraternal and a neighboring state and we have common interests. Iran should not interfere in the other countries' domestic affairs and should not pursue policies of hegemony. We have invited it to a dialogue, but if this does not take place, we will not accept any harm being done to Arab national security.

The foreign minister stressed the need for Iran to realize the opinion of the Arab people: that they reject provocative acts, hegemony, and the covetous Iranian designs in the region. The Arab people also reject Iran's dreams to establish a Persian empire, noting that national security will be endangered if these provocative acts and the policies of hegemony continue, he added.

On the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the foreign minister reiterated his previous assertions, which reject the ethnic cleansing policies adopted by the Serbian Republic.

On the amount of U.S. aid to Egypt and whether there will be any reduction in this amount after Clinton takes over, the foreign minister clarified that the U.S. policy is to reduce aid to foreign countries in general and that if this aid is not reduced now, there is a possibility that it will be reduced in the future. We must depend on ourselves and increase our production internally, because we have great potential to increase our exports by many times the current amount, Musa explained.

On reports that have been published regarding the return of 1 million Egyptians from Europe before the formation of the European Common Market next year and the threats this poses to Egypt's economic situation, the foreign minister clarified that there is a strong current in Europe advocating kicking out foreigners. After the Maastricht Treaty, there will be a referendum on the status of foreign workers. The European governments are confronting the current of extremist groups which are opposed to foreigners, but there is great activity by the ministries and Egyptian organs to cope with the return of

the Egyptian workforce from abroad. The Foreign Ministry and Egyptian Embassies are exerting great efforts to protect the rights and earnings of the Egyptian workers in the Common Market.

On the possibilities of Iraq's return to the Arab fold, the foreign minister clarified that there are many reservations about Iraq's current situation. There is great bitterness against the Iraqi regime. Iraq's current situation is a squandering of its role despite the fact that it is part of the Arab structure, the foreign minister added.

The foreign minister referred to the development of Egyptian-Ethiopian relations. He said that talks currently are taking place in Egypt with Ethiopian officials on opening a new page in relations between the two countries. He hailed this new policy of the Ethiopian Government.

[Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 1500 GMT on 6 December carries a similar report on Musa's statement before the People's Assembly committees and adds: "Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also touched on the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, affirming its dangers and demanding the importance of working within the United Nations to implement the international resolutions, especially those issued by the Islamic Conference Organization countries' foreign ministers, who met in Jeddah. 'Amr Musa affirmed that, if these resolutions are not implemented, an Islamic summit is expected to be convened to discuss the situation. The foreign minister affirmed that there have been no losses among the Egyptian forces under the UN's command in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He praised the great role these forces are playing."]

Minister Returns From Libya, Issues Statement

NC0412133392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said in a statement upon returning to Cairo from Tripoli this morning that he had conveyed a message to brother leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from President Husni Mubarak. He said the message is part of the two leaders' constant consultations on issues that concern the two countries and their coordination in confronting the changes affecting these issues.

The information minister said that Col. al-Qadhdhafi expressed his appreciation for President Mubarak's continuing efforts and endeavors to resolve the crisis between Libya and the Western countries. He said that Col. al-Qadhdhafi praised the continuing consultations and coordination between the two countries regarding this crisis and all issues of mutual concern.

Al-Sharif said that Mubarak's message dealt with the outcome of his excellency's recent contacts with a number of presidents and leaders in a bid to resolve the crisis between Libya and the Western countries and to bring the two sides' views closer on the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Libyan General People's Congress.

The information minister alluded to President Mubarak's meeting and talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and his talks with British Prime Minister John Major, as well as to his contacts with the present and upcoming U.S. Administrations.

It should be recalled that Safwat al-Sharif arrived in Tripoli on 2 December and held talks with ranking Libyan officials, including the secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation.

Turkish President Arrives; Meets With Mubarak

NC0512153792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Turkish President Turgut Ozal and his wife arrived at Cairo Airport this afternoon for a three-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak. The Turkish president and his wife were received by President and Mrs. Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Talks between Presidents Mubarak and Ozal have begun. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the talks will deal with international issues of common concern, especially developments in the Middle East, the Gulf, and the Mediterranean. The two presidents also will discuss bilateral relations in various fields.

Hold News Conference

NC0612123492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Turkish President Turgut Ozal held a news conference at the presidential palace this morning.

President Mubarak delivered a brief statement welcoming President Ozal, who is paying an official visit to Cairo of several days. He said: "The talks with President Ozal dealt with all problems in Central Asia and in our region. We also discussed the Bosnia-Hercegovina problem and arrived at several ideas."

President Mubarak said he hopes that "these problems will be solved peacefully and easily; otherwise, they will create bigger problems, not only for our region but in all parts of the world." He described bilateral relations with Turkey as very good, saying that there is cooperation in the economic and other spheres.

President Turgut Ozal delivered a short statement thanking the Egyptian people and Government for their hospitality since his arrival in Cairo. He said: "The manifestations of love I have received from the Egyptian people express the depth of the Egyptian people's amity

and friendship. I take this opportunity to thank President Mubarak and the Egyptian people for their warm hospitality."

Ozal added: "We held constant consultations with all levels of the Egyptian Government. The Gulf crisis and recent developments in the region have proved the effectiveness of these consultations."

President Ozal recalled that he met with President Mubarak in Ankara in April, adding that "there are no differences between our two countries' political views. We cooperate fully not only on the bilateral level but also on the international level, such as at the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] and the United Nations."

Ozal said that he and President Mubarak discussed various issues of mutual concern. There are no differences in political views with Egypt.

Ozal said that he was happy to see Egypt's current economic development, saying there has been tangible growth since his last visit to Egypt in 1990.

Ozal said: "I also discussed with President Mubarak the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem. I believe the events there are tragic." He noted that, before he arrived in Cairo yesterday, he contacted U.S. President George Bush and urged him to take some steps through the United Nations, as happened in Somalia. He said: "I also discussed this matter with President Mubarak."

Ozal said: "If no positive reaction occurs to the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem, it is possible that we will call for an Islamic summit to deal with the issue." He said that he consulted with King Fahd on the subject, and said that he hopes the UN Security Council will take into account any results the summit may arrive at.

The Turkish president added: We will find appropriate solutions for Bosnia-Herzegovina's crisis. He said that international cooperation is necessary on this issue; otherwise, destruction, killing, and tragedy will continue. He added: A quick solution must be found.

Ozal added that he and Mubarak discussed other regional issues, announcing: We exchanged views and are agreed that these issues must be resolved.

President Ozal said that he and President Mubarak had fruitful and constructive discussions about economic development issues.

President Mubarak was asked whether the talks touched on regional terrorism. He answered: We discussed it in a general way. We focused on Bosnia-Herzegovina because of its great importance and because it might lead to widespread terrorism, not only in the Balkans but in this entire region.

He added: "Let us not speak of the methods by which this will be confronted."

In answer to a question about cooperating with Turkey to establish a balance in the region, President Mubarak said: Turkey is a large Islamic state, part of which is in the Balkans. Cooperation between us and Turkey is basic and vital to the region's stability because any disloosup in the Balkans will affect us. We are not far from it.

Asked if the talks dealt with the tripartite meeting between Turkey, Iran, and Syria two months ago, President Mubarak remarked: We did not discuss this subject. Nothing of major importance to us was discussed at that meeting.

Ozal commented on this, saying: The meeting of three Iraqi neighbors basically revolved around the situation in Iraq. I believe that there has been a misunderstanding about what went on during that meeting. Some people thought it was about northern Iraq; it was not.

Asked about Turkey's position on the Iraqi media's recent advocacy of joining the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] established by Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan in 1985, the Turkish president replied: I do not believe that we invited Iraq to join the ECO; even if we had, I do not think it wants to join. I remember that when a regional economic cooperation union that included Iraq was formed in 1959-60 Iraq did not play an active role in it and it was dissolved after the Iraqi revolution. I would like to say, however, that once democracy is established in Iraq, it can join the region's economic activity.

When asked if he believes that the escalation of Islamic extremism poses a threat to the region, Mubarak said: I wish to make a one-word comment on this. This is not an Islamic movement; it is a terrorist movement. Islam is free from terrorism and violence.

Ozal commented on the same issue, saying: Islam is a religion of moderation. Islam is not extremist and an examination of its teachings will show that they are on the side of moderation, not extremism. Extremism has no connection with Islam. The extremists are exploiting Islam as a tool. I believe that the basic causes of extremist movements are economic conditions.

President Mubarak was asked: Do you believe that the presence of foreign troops in the region, such as in the Gulf or in Somalia, constitutes a danger or a threat to the region's security? President Mubarak said: There is no administration now in Somalia; it is a divided country that no party can control. The humanitarian aid being sent to the poor people and to the children there is being stolen; consequently, the presence of foreign troops there is for humanitarian reasons.

Commenting on the same question, Ozal said: I believe that the intervention in Somalia is for purely humanitarian reasons. The Turkish Government, he added, had decided to send some troops there.

Asked about the number of Egyptian troops to be sent to Somalia, President Mubarak said: We will send symbolic

troops, like we did in Bosnia-Herzegovina, because Somalia is an Arab and African state and because we care about the Somali people.

Asked if Iran's purchase of weapons from the East and the West poses any threat to the region's security, President Ozal said: I do not think so; we know the reason behind it. I know Iran well and have a personal relationship with President Rafsanjani. Believe me, they have several economic problems and they are trying hard to find solutions to them. I suggested to them that they stop spending money on arms purchases and spend it on their people instead.

President Mubarak was asked about the timing of the Islamic summit meeting and what purpose it would serve. He said: President Ozal has proposed an Islamic summit meeting to discuss the Bosnian problem.

Commenting on this, President Ozal said: This will be done in coordination with the Security Council. If the Security Council issues a decision to intervene or finds another solution, we will not need to hold an Islamic summit. If no decision is reached, however, we will need such a summit.

Further on Meetings

T4061/13692 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1500 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Zeynep [name indistinct] report from Cairo]

[Text] President Turgut Ozal who is in Cairo held a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak this morning. After the meeting, Ozal and Mubarak commented on the issues they discussed.

President Ozal recalled that he had a telephone conversation with President Bush and asked that urgent measures be taken for Bosnia-Herzegovina. Ozal warned that unless a solution is reached immediately, this tragic situation can spread to other regions in the Balkans and lead to unbelievable results. He said that at his meeting with Mubarak, he reviewed other regional problems and bilateral relations, and that there are no political problems between the two countries regarding these issues. Ozal pointed out that the relations between the two countries further developed especially after the Gulf crisis, and added that full cooperation has been established regarding international issues.

Replying to reporters' questions, Ozal revealed that they discussed the issue of terrorism with Mubarak as well. Ozal stressed that the operation Turkey carried out in northern Iraq did not aim at gaining land but exclusively at purging the terrorists.

In his statements, Egyptian President Mubarak said that if the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina continues, terrorism will spread [in Israel]. He pointed out that international aid cannot be effective in Somalia due to the lack of authority there, and that for this reason, Egypt will also send troops to the area.

Replying to questions, Mubarak pointed out that Islam does not uphold terrorism. Only, he pointed out, certain terrorist groups exploit religion.

With this meeting, President Ozal's official contacts in Cairo ended. Tomorrow, he will go to Luxor.

Ozal Ends Official Visit

NC0712003092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0901 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Turkish President Turgut Ozal ended his official three-day visit to Egypt today. There was an official farewell at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis.

Afterward President Mubarak accompanied the Turkish president to Cairo Airport, from where President Ozal will leave for Luxor on a two-day private visit. [passage omitted]

'Amr Musa on 'Successful' Talks

NC0712095092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0904 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated the importance of the talks between President Hosni Mubarak and Turkish President Turgut Ozal over the past two days.

He said the two presidents held their last round of talks this morning. They exchanged views on issues of mutual concern.

In a statement today, Musa described the Egyptian-Turkish talks as successful with very positive results. He said the talks between the two presidents were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual confidence.

Ozal on Mideast Peace, Cyprus

NC0712113192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1004 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Turkish President Turgut Ozal has said that it is extremely important for the Middle East peace efforts to continue. He said he hoped the negotiations will realize their objective and achieve peace in the region.

In an exclusive statement to MENA before he left Cairo for Luxor on a private visit, Ozal said the U.S. Administration under President Bush believed in achieving peace; if it continued for another four years, he said, it might be possible to say that achieving peace was almost certain.

President Ozal said he believed peace efforts will continue during the term of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton. He pointed out that the Middle East problem is not an easy one that can be solved quickly. The problem has existed for over 45 years and caused many wars in the region, he noted. A solution, therefore, needs much patience and persistence.

If we go back in history, the Turkish president said, we will find that this problem is the reason for the suffering in the region. There have been many victims and there have been terrorist acts, but the region's people have moved the issue from a regional to an international level. As far as Middle East peace is concerned, the point we have reached is good.

Asked about Turkey's position if Iran obtains nuclear weapons, the Turkish president said Turkey has no information on this. If it is true, the countries that pledged to eliminate nuclear weapons—the United States, France, and Britain—should shoulder their responsibilities.

Asked about accusations that Turkey seeks to establish an empire through alliances with the Islamic republics that gained independence from the former USSR, Ozal said the state's strength or geographic area do not form the criterion. He added: Geographic expansion these days brings more trouble. Perhaps it is more correct to take the economic, technical, and technological power as the criterion. Turkey wants to extend a hand of technical and economic assistance to the recently emerged republics.

On the possibility of a Cyprus solution now that peace talks on this issue have reached a deadlock, Ozal pointed out that the problem dates back to 1963; it has existed for 29 years. In the past six months, however, there has been tangible progress toward a solution through cooperation between the Turkish and Cypriot [as received] communities.

He said the Greek Cypriots must make some concessions to facilitate movement toward a final solution.

U.S. Criticized for Harboring 'Extremist' Cleric

U.S. Stance 'Extremely Strange'

NC0412174892 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 Dec 92 p 24

[Report by Sana' al-Sa'id]

[Text] Asked to comment on 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's stay in the United States, ranking U.S. diplomatic sources have stressed to AL-MUSAWWAR that his residence is being discussed by the judiciary and that no decision has yet been taken. Democracy dictates that we await the judicial ruling, the sources said.

Moreover, Frank Wisner, former U.S. ambassador to Egypt and current assistant secretary of state, commented jokingly on the issue when an Egyptian official asked him why the United States is allowing 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, a known terrorist, to stay in the country. Laughing, Wisner replied: Perhaps because the United States wanted to save you his trouble. Anyway, it is better for him and for you that he stays in the United States rather than in al-Fayyum or elsewhere, where he can create trouble for you!

Frank Wisner dealt with the issue as a joke deserving some laughter. But it is really the U.S. position that causes laughter: It is both extremely vague and extremely strange.

In his statement to AL-MUSAWWAR published in this issue, the interior minister discussed 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's connection with terrorism. A senior source also stressed to AL-MUSAWWAR that Bush's administration is an umbrella for fundamentalism in the region. The source does not rule out an agreement between both sides. Generally speaking, the Republicans are following the principles contained in the book Richard Nixon published following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Now that its traditional enemy has disappeared, the West is working to explode Islam from inside by attracting people like 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. The United States is trying to ignite the Islamic movement from within to weaken it. This is the modern way of intervention under the new world order coined by Bush.

AL-MUSAWWAR believes that Clinton's administration is completely different from Bush's administration insofar as this issue is concerned. Clinton cares about minorities, sympathizes with the blacks, and will not act against Islam. Things, therefore, will change after 20 January; that is, when Clinton enters the White House.

'Concealed Tension' in Ties

NC0412140892 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 2 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Egyptian-U.S. relations are experiencing "concealed" tension. Washington has kept silent about Egyptian questions last week on facilities granted by the Americans to al-Jihad Organization's Mufti Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, despite his involvement in inciting terrorist acts within Egypt.

This involvement was revealed in an interview 'Abd-al-Rahman gave to the British publication THE INDEPENDENT. The interview was summarized in last week's issue of AL-AHALI.

Egyptian circles take the American silence to indicate Washington's approval of these terrorist acts, which seek to exhaust Egypt and drown it in security, economic, and political problems and thus weaken its ability to gather its powers to play its pan-Arab role.

Responding to deputies' questions at a meeting of the Arab Affairs Committee of the Consultative Council, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said simply that the American Judiciary is considering the validity of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's stay in the United States.

Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa shed more light on the issue in his reply to reporters' questions. He said the American authorities earlier denied 'Abd-al-Rahman's presence in America. They later demanded an official clarification on the number of wives 'Abd-al-Rahman has in Egypt when he married a black American wife. Expressing his astonishment, the interior minister said: "As if this is the only thing that concerns them."

Surprisingly enough, Washington is pressing for expanded economic, political, and military sanctions against Libya for its failure to hand over two citizens whom it claims are involved in terrorist acts. Meanwhile Washington harbors 'Abd-al-Rahman and fosters his stay and activity, although the man publicly urges the assassination of senior Egyptian officials and the murder and intimidation of tourists visiting Egypt. This clearly reveals the double standards and hypocrisy characterizing the American approach to terrorism.

Egyptian circles believe this American stand reflects an underestimation of the Egyptian people. Washington forced the Iranian shah to leave America so as not to anger the Iranian people who revolted against the shah, who was the commander of the Gulf police and served American interests at that time.

AL-AHALI has learned that a contact was made between Egypt and the United States six months ago, in which Egypt inquired about 'Abd-al-Rahman's stay and activity in the United States and the privilege granted to him to invite people for a three-month stay in America to hold meetings and collect donations publicly to finance extremist activities in Egypt. Then, the Egyptian side presented information about foreign funds that 'Abd-al-Rahman transferred to one of his wives in al-Fayyum. The American side denied that anyone called 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman was living in America at that time.

AL-AHALI has also learned that a similar contact was made three weeks ago to inquire about permission granted to 'Abd-al-Rahman to take an American wife and thus obtain a long residence permit, although American law prohibits marriage to a man who is already married. The American side promised to investigate the issue and later put forward an official request to verify information on 'Abd- al-Rahman's marriages in Egypt. 'Abd-al-Rahman was advised to file a lawsuit through an American lawyer specializing in extending judicial procedures. The Americans later justified their failure to deport 'Abd-al-Rahman by saying that they were waiting for the court to consider the lawsuit.

'Abd-al-Rahman left Egypt in February 1990 using the excuse of performing the minor pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. He left Saudi Arabia for the Pakistani-Afghan border to visit his two sons who were getting military training with the Afghan mujahidin. He then left for Sudan, where he obtained an entry visa to the United States through the mediation of Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front, with the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum.

Before reaching America, 'Abd-al-Rahman visited several European countries, including Germany—the international headquarters of fundamentalists.

THE INDEPENDENT's interview with 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, which was taped on cassette, cited him as saying literally: "Foreign tourists should be driven out of Egypt, because they spread corruption and unethical sexual behavior, carry AIDS and other ailments into our country, and try to ruin our Islamic values."

Elsewhere in the interview, 'Abd-al-Rahman says: "We do not need tourists to come to Egypt so that some people can *profit* from them. Such profit is illegal and is prohibited by Islam. Tourists should stay away from our country so that we can preserve our ethical values."

The concept of prohibiting profit generated by tourism was often repeated in the taped interview.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Stance

NC0612142292 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 3-9 Dec 92 p 14

[From the "Entre Nous" column by Muhammad Salmawi]

[Text] 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the Grand Emir of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] responsible for a number of assassinations from al-Sadat in 1981 to Faraj Fudah in June of this year, is now living comfortably in San Francisco [as published].

In Egypt Shaykh 'Umar spent his time either on trial, in prison or being chased by security. Not a very pleasant existence, I imagine. Now in Frisco he is reportedly married to an American, moves freely and raises funds, wherever he wants to, for the cause of the Islamic state his group hopes to bring about in Egypt.

In a round-table discussion with the WEEKLY last year, Minister of the Interior 'Abd-al-Halim Musa told us that his ministry had traced two cheques amounting to 140,000 U.S. dollars, which Shaykh 'Umar had sent to Egypt.

From his American headquarters Shaykh 'Umar has issued a number of fatwas, or religious rulings, against the present 'non-Islamic' government in Egypt. His last one was against receiving tourists. These heretical and perfidious foreigners have no regard for Islam. They drink alcohol, wear shorts and sleeveless dresses and do all sorts of other scandalous things. Besides, Egypt does not need the income tourists bring in to feed its people. Nothing they bring is lawful.

In the investigations into the recent attacks on tourists it is reported that the name of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has come up as the prime instigator of these incidents.

In other words, Shaykh 'Umar proclaims from America that tourists, many of whom are American, are haram [sinful], produces a fatwa that permits killing them and sends American funds to his people to carry out such attacks. What greater example could the Americans give Egypt of their democracy?

The American government, which has previously refused an entry visa to a number of prominent Egyptian politicians, notably leftist party leader Khalid Muhy-al-Din, offers Shaykh 'Umar residence in one of its principal cities, even though he may ask his people back home to kill American

citizens who come this way, and send them the necessary funds to carry out his instructions.

Three cheers for American democracy? Hip, hip...

Possibility of Extradition Noted

NC0412173592 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 Dec 93 p 67

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-MUSAWWAR, Public Prosecutor Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi has said that 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman has not been indicted in any law case which could serve as grounds for an extradition request [to the United States]. Counselor al-'Arabi pointed out that there is no extradition treaty between Egypt and the United States and that such legal matters are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

If Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman is indicted in any court case, or if he is subpoenaed for testimony, we will look into the possibility of requesting his extradition from the United States, al-'Arabi said.

[Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic at 4 December, on page 67, reports: "A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has told AL-MUSAWWAR that Egypt has not requested the extradition of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. The source pointed out that no official request to this effect has been made by any of the Foreign Ministry's departments. The source added that Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman is not wanted by any legal authority, has not been convicted in any lawsuit, and has left the country legally."]

Interior Minister Interviewed on 'Extremists'

NC0412213092 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 Dec 93 pp 14, 15, 71

[Interview with Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa by Sana' al-Sa'id; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] In your view, is the security effort sufficient to contain the phenomenon of extremism, or is there need for a consolidated media and political campaign to support this effort?

[Musa] Yes, there must be coordination among all services, and there is need for a comprehensive program to deal with violence and extremism. We want to search for the reasons behind this phenomenon which has led such people to carry out these crimes. We want to search for the reasons—not the results—which have led to this situation. Many services have a role and responsibility, and they must shoulder them to contain extremism and violence. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] How much time do you need to end the phenomenon of violence and extremism?

[Musa] I honestly say that these extremists are not as significant as some imagine. What happened was done by children. This means that they do not have capable leadership or experience. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] They must have an organization behind them.

[Musa] There is no doubt that there is an organization, but the leaders have been suppressed. They depend on the existence of what they call amirs. If one of their amirs is arrested for a certain offense, they rush to select one from among them, who in turn tries to do something to prove himself.

[Al-Sa'id] Isn't this considered an expansion of the base of extremism and terrorism?

[Musa] Often one member of the group is chosen. Those who carried out these actions and were arrested were not amirs. They were just advocators and participants, and they were arrested. What I want to state here is that we have succeeded—thanks be to God—in arresting more than 90 percent of those accused in the recent incidents, and the process of arresting the others is continuing following testimony by the detained defendants. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Have you laid your hands on these organizations?

[Musa] We laid our hands on more than this. In the two cases which are being considered by a military court in Alexandria, one of the defendants told us everything about the new cadres, their training places, and the sources of weapons and funding. I will say no more on [illegible]. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Is there anything to indicate that Iran is involved in terrorism? Is the accusation based on evidence and proof?

[Musa] Yes, according to the testimonies of the extremist elements who have been detained.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the proof of Iran's involvement?

[Musa] Extremist elements came to Egypt from fraternal states, not necessarily with their knowledge. They came through the crossing points of Libya and Sinai. Iranians trained the extremist elements in camps in Sudan.

[Al-Sa'id] Sudanese officials have denied the existence of such training camps and proposed more than once to Egyptian officials that they go to Sudan to check and ascertain that there are no camps.

[Musa] What is certain and confirmed is that there is an Iranian Revolutionary Guards force of more than 2,000 men in Sudan to train the extremists. This force recently was established to work outside Iran to train extremist groups. We do not speak nonsense, make unfounded accusations, or blame others for our problems. The evidence exists, and it came up in the confessions of the detained elements during the investigation and in court. Where should the blame lie? This is something that does not please us. But I affirm that this will not affect our

relations with the Sudanese people. The Sudanese people are an extension of the Egyptian people. There are 4 million Sudanese living among us here. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] It has been said that 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi, head of the Iranian interests office in Egypt, is one of the figures known for his connection with terrorism. Does he have other activities in Egypt?

[Musa] The security services are convinced that the Iranians do not harbor good intentions for Egypt. This conviction is based on proven facts. Iran will not forget that during its war with Iraq, Egypt supported Iraq by virtue of our relations, Arabism, and hope in Iraq at the time as a fraternal state and in the Iraqi people, with whom our relations are still good. I do not want to exaggerate. But I say that we deal with them with open eyes, and we will not give them the chance to do what they like. Therefore, we have not given the head of the Iranian interests office in Egypt the opportunity which he would have liked to hold contacts with extremist elements. He tried, but his attempts have been frustrated.

[Al-Sa'id] This means that the office has not become a spying center?

[Musa] It will not have the chance.

[Al-Sa'id] Some say the United States could be behind the feeding and escalation of extremism. There also are some who say that perhaps Israel is involved in supporting extremism and spreading terrorism.

[Musa] This is what the people say, and this is what I frankly talked about with the Israeli ambassador in Cairo. When I mentioned to him that there is a link between you and them, he said: How can we be behind them when they threaten to kill us? I asked him frankly: Is there a link between you and terrorism? The ambassador said: How? They are killing us; how can there be any relation with them? What prompted me to ask this question were the reports during the Iraq-Iran war that there is a long-lasting relationship between Iran and Israel, through which Iran has received weapons from Israel in return for oil. What you are saying is something that has been reiterated in certain circles.

[Al-Sa'id] 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman resides in the United States. Frank Wisner, former U.S. ambassador in Egypt and a current U.S. State Department official, was asked why the United States gave him permission to stay when he has a record of involvement in terrorism. He said, laughing: Isn't this better than him living in al-Fayyum [Egyptian governorate]; we have relieved you of him. My question is: Have you officially asked the United States to hand him over to you?

[Musa] 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman originally is from al-Daqahliyah Governorate and now is residing in New Jersey. He is in the United States collecting and sending money, sending cassette tapes with recorded speeches, and distributing leaflets. I told the U.S. Embassy this and asked embassy officials about the reasons for allowing him to stay there when he is doing this. Furthermore, he has received a green card. The Americans cannot deny this. When they originally requested information about him from us, they asked whether he was married. It appears that he is violating U.S. law. At that time he wanted to get married there. We gave them all the information they requested about him. We asked them the same question: Why are you keeping him in the United States? Why are you letting him stay? Why are you inquiring about him after you have given him a green card? They said: He has filed a lawsuit, and the court has not yet considered the case. We are people who respect the law and cannot violate it. Anyhow, we have not yet requested his extradition.

[Al-Sa'id] Regarding the sources of funding for the extremists, there are some who say that financing is coming from certain states.

[Musa] I doubt very much that funds come from Saudi Arabia, unless there are some people who send contributions to those who serve religious calls and to the poor, but when the money gets here, it is directed to other outlets unknown to the contributor. But I am confident that if the states knew that such funds are being channeled to terrorists and to undermine the economy of a country, they would take a stand. President Mubarak succeeded before the Gulf war in uniting the Arabs and strengthening these countries' relations with Egypt. Security-wise, this has greatly relieved us. What I want to say is that the foreign financing of the terrorists in Egypt is a fact and there is no doubt about it. Some of the money was sent by 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. He sent $80,000 and then $60,000 within a short time. At the beginning he used to send money through transfers. But after the process was uncovered, he started sending the money with travelers, especially as there are no restrictions now on foreign currency.

Another thing is that we cannot deny that a country like Iran also undertakes the financing of terrorism. The financing could take place through a neighboring country, especially as our borders are long and open. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] But there is nothing yet to prove that a certain country is doing the financing?

[Musa] Specifically, no. It has not been proven. The other thing is that when they felt that the noose was being tightened around them to prevent any money reaching them, and when the transfers to them were monitored, which frightened them, they began robbing jewelry shops and killing their owners. What is strange is that some of them steal and kill to build their own houses and get married, and then give the rest to their terrorist group.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the truth about the total number of people killed in terrorist incidents since March? A news agency has reported that about 70 security men, extremists, and civilians have been killed.

[Musa] This figure is exaggerated. The number of security men, civilians, and terrorists killed does not reach that figure. It is summed up as follows: 21 civilians, 5 security men, and 13 terrorists, bringing the total to 39. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton has said that the aid which will be given to Egypt will be tied to human rights. Are you sure that the aid will continue because you are confident that human rights are being observed in Egypt?

[Musa] In my opinion, human rights here in Egypt are better safeguarded than human rights in the United States.

'Abd-al-Rahman Dossier Cited

NC0612122392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0908 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—The AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I newspaper reports in today's issue that a high-level security team has finished compiling a list of the actions perpetrated by Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, al-Jihad Organization's mufti currently residing in the United States, and his public and covert religious rulings. Security sources seized copies of those rulings from al-Jihad Organization members recently arrested in the wake of the attack on the tourist bus in Giza and the shooting of an Alexandria police force sent to arrest terrorist Hasan Shihatah.

An official security source told the paper that Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's suspect acts in the United States and his rulings, which aim to undermine Egypt's domestic security and attack tourism, one of the country's economic mainstays, have all been compiled in a dossier that will be sent to the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office. The prosecutor will act on the information in the report and put an end to the sedition that Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman and his supporters seek to foment among citizens under the guise of religion.

The source added that the dossier contains public statements by the al-Jihad Organization's mufti to several foreign newspapers notably THE INDEPENDENT in which he declared his backing for armed terrorist operations against foreign tourists because they do not observe Islam's teachings and customs. The dossier also contains photostats of checks amounting to $70,000 that 'Abd-al-Rahman sent to al-Jihad Organization leaders in Egypt and documents proving his involvement in contacts made with the so-called Islamic Liberation Army in Iran. This army is supervised by a team comprising one ayatollah, three Iranian Army commanders, and the chief of Iran's intelligence service.

A judicial source has announced that the list of 'Abd-al-Rahman's activities come under the jurisdiction in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Penal Code's Article 98, which carries a 20-year prison sentence with hard labor.

File Submitted to Prosecution

NC0712111492 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1026 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has decided to refer Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of al-Jihad Organization who is now living in the United States, to the Higher State Security Prosecution now that his involvement in the killing of foreign tourists in Egypt and his suspect contacts with Iranian Army commanders have been proven.

The file to be submitted to the prosecution includes 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's statements, which were published in one of the British newspapers. In the statements, al-Jihad Organization mufti supported armed terrorism against foreign tourists on the pretext that they do not observe the teachings and traditions of Islam. The file also includes photocopies of checks he sent to al-Jihad leaders in Egypt.

A correspondent for AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY has learned that the acts committed by 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and mentioned in the file subject him to Article 98 of the Penal Code and a penalty of up to 20 years imprisonment with hard labor.

'Extremists' Arrested at Mosque

NC0412200692 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 2 Dec 92 p 1

[Excerpts] Acting on instructions from Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa to curb the threat of extremist groups which seek to tamper with the country's security and defame Islam's image abroad, the security authorities in Bani Suwayf arrested 16 extremists of the al-Jihad Organization as they tried to organize a seminar in al-Shadir Mosque in Bani Suwayf city to denounce what they termed persecution by police. [passage omitted]

Wide-scale searches are taking place in Upper Egypt governorates to apprehend other extremists with the advent of winter, during which there is a great amount of tourism, especially in Luxor and Aswan. Police have prepared ambushes on the main roads linking Upper Egypt governorates, beginning in al-Fayyum and ending in Aswan.

A responsible security source told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I correspondent Muhammad 'Abd-al-Buri that there is confirmed information that large numbers of al-Jihad Organization members have fled across the border into Sudan. He said a tight watch has been imposed on official crossing points and on unknown mountainous roads with help from squads of camel riders.

'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman Discusses Terrorism

NC0412181992 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 Dec 92 p 21, 22

[Majdi Shihab report]

[Text] With our knowledge and under our supervision, a relative of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman telephoned him last week in the United States. In this call (dialogue), which was recorded on a cassette, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman clearly declares that tourism is religiously impermissible and that killing tourists is part of the Islamic tenet of forbidding what is sinful. He also talked about the trial case in which the U.S. authorities are demanding his deportation.

Asked about his involvement in financing terrorism against tourism in Egypt, he replied: "But if anyone earns a fault or a sin and throws it on to one that is innocent, he carries (on himself) (both) a falsehood and a flagrant sin." [Koranic verse] They claimed that I have married a black women and this is not true. They said that I have sent $140,000 and have met Saddam Husayn. They are saying today that I am financing the brothers in Egypt and that they discovered the code between me and this group. This is not true and I challenge the interior minister to come forward with the documents if he has any.

Asked about his religious ruling on attacking tourists in Egypt, he said: Tourism in Egypt is definitely not permitted by religion. It is a great sin. The regime's scholars who claim that tourism is permissible, advocate it, and issue religious rulings on it are apostates. Religiously permitted tourism is that of heeding the moral of history and confronting them falsifying it. If the Islamic Group did anything, it was merely doing its duties of forbidding what is sinful.

Clearly asked what is Islam's view of tourism, he said: Definitely impermissible.

Asked for his opinion of the Dayrut and Upper Egypt incidents, he said: It was at first a feud dispute. In the beginning, the Islamic Group intervened to bring about a reconciliation, but the government exploited this dispute and intervened with its forces against us, claiming as an excuse that members of the Group instigated this disturbance. What happened was the result of the government's misguided action and its siding with the Christians. This caused the situations to explode.

[Question] What, then, is your position on the "Christians" in Egypt? Why are groups attacking them and their possessions, especially as you are now living among Christians?

[Answer] Islam has a clear stand and this is adopted by the Group. Islam spares the Christians' blood and possessions as long as they remain true to the trust between them and Muslims, remain under the Muslims' protection, and respect the Islamic system. At the time of the Islamic invasion, the Christians in Egypt helped the Muslims and told them: You are closer to our hearts than other Christians because you give us our full rights. This is recorded in the history of Islam.

When Saladdin won and retook Jerusalem, he did not kill the Christians, who had killed 100,000 Muslims. Islam calls for respecting minorities and for not attacking the Christian's honor.

Asked why resort to violence when Islam rejects violence and terrorism, he said: Violence does not stem from us but is a reaction.

[Question] What does the Islamic Group demand from the government?

['Abd-al-Rahman] We only want the application of God's shar'ah, the government to propagate religion and uphold the call of justice, and the calls of the *awqaf* minister and his big army to be stopped. We want the people to know the right that comes from God and not the right that comes from the *awqaf* minister, who has sold his soul to the government. We want shar'ah to be applied in full, or else the revolution... the revolution.

[Question] When will the Group's attacks on the security forces stop?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The day they resort to dialogue and when the security forces treat Muslims patiently and the detainees are released. The Islamic Group at that time will not pressure the government with its actions and will sit with reliable scholars.

Asked about his living in the United States, he said: My passport was taken from me at Kennedy Airport with the excuse that I am married to two women in Egypt, which is against U.S. law. There is a case before the court to deport me as a result of this. I proved to them that there are no summons against me in Egypt and that I am residing here on a tourist visa.

Cleric's 'Disciple' Interviewed

NC0412221992 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 Dec 92 pp 22-24

[Report on an interview with an unnamed "close disciple" of Islamic Group leader Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in al-Fayyum by Najwan 'Abd-al-Latif; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has great influence and unlimited control over his disciples. I met one of the leaders of the Islamic Group in al-Fayyum, who is one of 'Abd-al-Rahman's close disciples. He told me he did not want his name quoted because Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman has not authorized him to speak, pointing out that 'Abd-al-Rahman is the group's leader and mufti and the only one who has this right [to authorize public statements].

I asked the disciple how 'Abd-al-Rahman can give religious rulings and instructions when he is thousands of miles away. He said: Telephone contact between us and

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman takes place daily and lasts for hours. The Islamic Group does not formulate any opinion on any matter without going back to him.

I asked him about his position on the attacks on tourism in Egypt and the damage done to the Egyptian economy. He replied by saying: This is a justified response. We are a group under attack from the security [forces] and subjected to repression. We attack tourism because it brings corruption and horrendous moral decay to the country, nudity in the streets, gambling, and alcohol. The money brought by tourism is sinful.

['Abd-al-Latif] So, what do you and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman think about the killing of [advocate of secular politics] Dr. Faraj Fudah?

[Disciple] Fudah is a man who insulted Islam and Muslims. His attacks on Islam were venomous and outrageous, way beyond all limits.

['Abd-al-Latif] What are your relations with the regimes in Sudan and Iran?

[Disciple] This is not my department, for I am not in charge of foreign relations. But let me tell you this: These are regimes that rule according to Islamic laws; therefore, we have Islamic relations with them, despite the fact that we have differences with the Iranian regime because it is a Shiite regime and we are Sunnis. There is nothing shameful in having relations with Islamic countries. What is shameful is what the Egyptian Government is doing: Striking against Islam not only in Egypt, but all over the world. Why does the government establish ties with Western and Jewish countries but refuses to have relations with Iran?

Why didn't the government's relations with Sudan not deteriorate until the latter began following Islamic policies? Why did the government support the Algerian Government? And so on and so forth.

['Abd-al-Latif] The problems between the government and Iran and Sudan are based on the support that these two countries are giving the Islamic groups in terms of funding and training.

[Disciple] This are empty words. Where is the proof?

['Abd-al-Latif] Where do you get weapons and funds?

[Disciple] Weapons are easy to get. In Upper Egypt, anyone who has money can buy weapons.

['Abd-al-Latif] Where do you get the money?

[Disciple] What is it you want? You want me to say that we get assistance from abroad? If this is true, why haven't the authorities referred us to trial?

N.B.: A large number of jewelry shops in al-Fayyum are now owned by Islamic Group members. The same goes for grocery shops. [preceding is source-provided editor's note]

['Abd-al-Latif] How can you call for the implementation of Islamic shari'ah when the country is inhabited by Christians, too?

[Disciple] Christians are a protected minority under Islam [dhimmiyun]. Their life, property, and women are protected so long as they do not attack Muslims. However, the shari'ah has to be implemented and they have to follow it. Their women should be veiled. They should not drink alcohol or gamble. Even if we were to assume that the implementation of shari'ah would harm Christians, this is not a good reason for not implementing it.

['Abd-al-Latif] When will 'Abd-al-Rahman return to Egypt? If he is really a man with a mission, as he claims to be, why doesn't he come back to live in his country?

[Disciple] How can he come back? This is a man who, even after being found innocent in four court cases, had to live under house surveillance. Besides, the Egyptian Government told him his presence in Egypt is undesirable.

['Abd-al-Latif] 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman got into arguments with everyone. He differed with 'Abbud al-Zumur [believed to be the leader of al-Jihad Organization, currently imprisoned in connection of the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat] over ignorance as an excuse [a theological debate with bearing on whether government officials who are not versed in Islam should be attacked immediately or enlightened first]. He also differed with Shawqi al-Shaykh [a hard-line militant eliminated by rival Islamists] and the latter sanctioned his killing. He even differed with the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Disciple] Differences of opinion have to happen among various groups. These differences are useful in defeating security campaigns. Still, these differences are taking place within the same current and doctrine.

For example, 'Abd-al-Rahman rejected the participation of the Islamic Group in the People's Assembly elections because the People's Assembly has the right to issue laws against Islamic shari'ah. In this, he differed with the Muslim Brotherhood. But we support the Muslim Brotherhood in the elections of local councils and syndicates, because these are forums that can offer real help to the people and to Islamic propagation.

['Abd-al-Latif] How about his view on democracy?

[Disciple] We do not accept these terms. What is democracy? A democracy that establishes a secular regime and rejects Islamic rule is unacceptable.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Education Committee

LD0712030493

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic at 1230 GMT on 6 December carries a 108-minute recording of an address by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the first part of a

meeting with the General People's Committee for Education, Youth, Scientific Research and Vocational Training. The place and date of the meeting are not given. Exception is fair.

Al-Qadhdhafi begins by stressing the importance of education and the need for Libya to attain greater self-sufficiency in trained manpower. He goes on to say: "This is our first meeting here today following the establishment of communes or localities. This is the first time that a general committee has comprised such a large number—1,500 members in all. Obviously such a system exists nowhere else in the world, because democracy does not exist in the world. There is no doubt that the world is a dictatorial entity. However, no one dares to tell the industrial states that they are autocratic, or tell the oil-rich states that they are dictatorial or that they belong to the past. These states monopolize papers, magazines, satellite-transmitted radios; they make mountains out of molehills; they turn right into injustice and injustice into right. You are aware that autocratic regimes are deeply rooted in reaction; they have nothing to do whatsoever with the contemporary era. They represent extremely backward tribal regimes." He then declares: "These regimes are deep in their subservience, dependency, espionage, and service to colonialist forces. They do not control their resources or decisions. Despite this, they continue as if there is nothing wrong; no one dares to expose their shortcomings and defects because they have resources and [words indistinct]. They even defend them.

"Obviously, colonialism defends these regimes, particularly in the Arab world, for two reasons. The first reason lies in colonialism's direct interest in the wealth of these backward regimes. The second is represented in its endeavor to protect reaction in the Arab world. That is, colonialism works against the progress of the Arab nation; a backward regime is protected by colonialism so that the Arab nation remains an underdeveloped nation. The dictatorial and autocratic regime protects this backward regime, because this weakens the power of the Arab masses. Therefore, reactionary and dictatorial regimes in the Arab world are colluding with colonialism in this connection; they work with it side by side against the progress of the Arab nation whom it seeks to weaken. Colonialism confronts revolutionary, and liberation regimes, because they are the saviors of the Arab masses, they open up their eyes and encourage them to liberate and educate themselves as well as be inventive and progressive."

He then praises the merits of the new administrative system based on communes, saying that this is true democracy and comparing it favorably to the Swiss cantonal system. He says that he will explain the reasons for the amalgamation of the general people's secretariats. He says: "Sometimes, names were given prematurely to things. I said that there will be an armed people. So they began to describe regular armed institutions as armed people. This is not correct. They are not armed people; they are regular military units. Now we are starting to form the armed people." Saying that Libya is a large country with a small population, he states: "This large expanse of territory means that Libya must arm itself and exert efforts in this regard and develop its weapons in order to be able to defend its large area. Some people believe, however, that since Libya arms itself and develops its weapons it will destroy the world. It is illogical to say that we will destroy the world. We only want to defend our territory. We are small in number and our area is large and coveted because of its wealth. It is only natural for us to possess arms. We must have weapons to exercise our right to defend ourselves. They do not want us to defend ourselves, though, so that when they invade us they will find us easy prey, like all the other countries they want to invade and whose wealth they want to seize. We refuse, however, to be invaded easily."

On the question of Arab unity, al-Qadhdhafi declares: "The defense of Libya remains a problem without Arab unity. Perhaps this is one of the main factors that prompt the Libyans to be more strongly in favor of unity than some others. They feel a need for Arab unity because they are not safe. Those who are not secure live in fear and panic. This must end through ensuring that all can feel secure, that from Libya to the Atlantic there is no fear, since all this area constitutes one homeland. From Libya to the Gulf, there is no fear, as it constitutes one homeland. If an attack came from either the north or the south, Libya would not face up to it alone. Such an attack would be an attack on the entire Arab homeland. Thus our assertion that unity is vital is not a purely emotional demand."

He returns to the topic of the necessity to amalgamate the secretariats, comparing the size and population of Libya with those of Egypt. He discusses the need to combine light and heavy branches of industry and stresses the importance to development of advanced technical training. He quotes examples of famous Arab scientists and academics; continuing to stress the role of education in society, he calls on the members of the committee to lay down a sound and effective policy on education, youth, and sport. He says tha the merger of the different educational sectors will facilitate this.

He then discusses the history of the party system in the world, asserting that the only solution is the one found in his third theory as represented in the *Green Book*.

He goes on to say that Libyans should be aware of developments in the outside world, and calls for the domestic production of satellite dishes to enable Libyans to watch foreign television stations. He then states that the amalgamation of the various educational sectors will prove beneficial, and discusses the role of teachers, urging that their conditions be improved. He concludes by adjourning the meeting, saying that it will resume at 1700. No indication is given of when the second part of the meeting will be carried.

Kuwait

Government To Send 'Symbolic Force' to Somalia

LD0612165492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 6 Dec (KUNA)—Kuwait has decided today to send "a symbolic force" to take part in the UN international forces entrusted with implementing the UN Security Council resolution regarding the "use of force to secure the delivery of humanitarian aid to the sons of the Somali people."

Dari Abdallah al-'Uthmaan, second deputy prime minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, told KUNA, following a cabinet ministers' meeting, that Kuwait had made this decision out of its belief in "the importance of the appropriate measures to support international legitimacy."

In this connection, he expressed the Kuwaiti Cabinet's satisfaction over this international resolution and its backing for "all UN measures to secure the delivery of relief supplies to the brotherly Somali people, save victims of starvation, and bring about a speedy end to this humanitarian issue."

He added that, during its weekly meeting, the cabinet, which was chaired by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, had expressed its "esteem for the intensive efforts and endeavors of the United Nations in the service of humanitarian causes, defending human rights, and laying firm foundations for international peace and security." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Welcomes UN Resolution on Somalia

LD0512120892 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 5 December, KUNA—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the acting prime minister and foreign minister, today expressed Kuwait's satisfaction with the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council on Thursday on the use of force to protect relief aid to the Somali people.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad described the resolution as historic and noted that it was taken to guarantee a humanitarian role for the United Nations through the use of multinational forces to save an entire people and end the tragedy of starvation and death.

He added that this resolution was in consideration for the role of the United Nations in embodying the international legitimacy and also the UN role in defending the right of peoples to security and peace.

He further said that he hoped that these troops would manage, within the framework of international legitimacy, to carry out their humanitarian mission successfully so that the much-needed food and medical supplies reach the fraternal people of Somalia away from the obstacles and obstructions of the forces that have for so long kept the Somali people in the cycle of starvation, illness, and homelessness.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad also hoped that the Arab League would manage to strengthen its role toward the Somali ordeal in order to support the humanitarian role the United Nations could play in this context through the resolution adopted recently by the UN Security Council.

Foreign Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Ties

LD0512170392 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi (UAE) [United Arab Emirates], Dec. 5, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Kuwait, Hosayn Sadeqi, discussed expansion of mutual relations in different areas with Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah today.

In the meeting, which took place in Kuwait city, the two officials surveyed the current development in the Persian Gulf region and stressed that the enemies do not consider the interests of regional states and are only after their own vested interests.

* Oil Minister on Rebuilding, Production

91AE1504 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Nov 92 p 15

[Article: "'Ali al-Baghli: We Are Experiencing A Big Budget Deficit; It Is in Our Interest for Oil and Dollar Prices To Rise"]

[Text] 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli, oil minister and chairman of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation [KPC] Board of Directors, said yesterday that he has urged the boards of directors of KPC-controlled companies to train national cadres and to devote adequate attention to them.

In a statement to the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY, the minister said that he also recommended that no foreign labor be employed in KPC-controlled companies except within the narrowest limits and only after the reasons justifying such employment are presented and when no high-quality skilled labor is available locally.

The minister noted that at the meeting he had with chairmen of the boards of directors of KPC-controlled companies last Wednesday, he urged them to exert utmost efforts to train and develop local cadres.

The minister also noted that he asked the chairmen to submit a plan for training national labor in the next four

years to replace imported foreign labor within the state's general tendency to amend the population structure.

The minister said that his recommendation has been guided by the decree that established the KPC and by its basic law, which states that one of the corporation's main objectives is to enhance and develop local manpower capabilities.

Al-Baghli visited the Port 'Abdallah Refinery Administration during a tour that included the KPC's three refineries: al-Shu'aybah, al-Ahmadi, and Port 'Abdallah.

The minister was received by Ahmad al-Mutayri, chairman and commissioned member of the National Oil Company Board of Directors.

The minister met with high-ranking officials of the company and its refineries and heard an explanation from Badr Hajji Yusif, director of al-Ahmadi Port Refinery, on the refinery processing operations. Yusif also presented a historical synopsis on Port al-Ahmadi Refinery and on the plan to modernize it.

Yusif also talked about the three-phase plan to restore and reopen the refineries, saying that the first phase, which calls for the partial operation of some refining units of al-Ahmadi Refinery in order to meet the local market needs, has been completed. He also said that the second phase calls for repairing what was destroyed during the Iraqi invasion. The third phase calls for modernizing some processing units to attain ideal conditions for processing.

In wake of his tour of the three refineries, the oil minister told journalists that these refineries had attained a maximum daily capacity of 850,000 barrels prior to the Iraqi invasion and that according to the scheduled plan, this capacity will amount to 650,000 barrels daily next September, with emphasis on some oil derivatives. The minister noted that these refineries' current capacity is 420,000 barrels daily.

The minister also said that oil equipment destroyed during the Iraqi invasion will be replaced with equipment produced by the latest technology.

The minister noted that we are experiencing a large budget deficit this year and that it is in our interest for oil and dollar prices to rise.

Minister al-Baghli said that demand for OPEC oil has been less than expected because the winter has not been that cold. This is the most important reason for the drop in oil prices. Other reasons for the drop include speculations about resumption of Iraq's oil production, which is a very distant proposition because the Iraqi regime has not submitted to the UN resolutions.

The oil minister added that the efforts he has seen Kuwaiti young men make to restore the oil facilities destroyed by malice calls for pride, adding that the work these young men have accomplished is a clear indication of their love for their country. These men have proven to the world that they are capable of turning back the enemies' malice. The minister said that these young men are this country's true wealth, because the oil wealth is depletable. They deserve full attention, and attention will be devoted to them. The minister said that his door is open to this vital sector's workers and that these workers must not feel that they have not received their full rights.

Al-Mutayri Address

Ahmad al-Mutayri, the National Oil Company Board of Directors chairman and commissioned member, expressed his and the oil industry workers' happiness with the visit the minister made to the refineries to familiarize himself with the efforts made by the workers. He added that the refineries' workers view the reconstruction of these refineries as a national duty, noting that we are in the second phase of refinery reconstruction. He said that efforts are focused on accelerating operations of the refining units and that the workers are exerting the utmost effort to carry out the scheduled plans in this regard. He noted that the plan calls for putting the three refineries back in operation by the end of 1993.

Al-Mutayri emphasized this vital sector's need for the minister's support and expressed hope that the minister will make other visits to the refineries in the future.

Refinery Modernization

Muhammad al-Tawil, the Port 'Abdallah Refinery director, spoke at the outset of the tour about the project to modernize this refinery.

Khalid Bahamish, the deputy commissioned member for industrialization at the National Oil Company, then introduced department managers at al-Shu'aybah Refinery.

Sa'd al-Sa'd, director of the technical services department at al-Shu'aybah Refinery, provided a brief description of the role of each of the refinery's departments, adding that al-Shu'aybah Refinery is completely Kuwaiti-operated.

The minister was accompanied on his visit to the Port 'Abdallah, Port al-Ahmadi, and al-Shu'aybah refineries by high-ranking KPC officials, led by Ahmad al-Mutayri and directors of the refineries.

Tawfiq al-Mughni, the director of operations at al-Shu'aybah Refinery, and 'Abdallah al-Nasir, chief engineer at the Port 'Abdallah Refinery, provided the explanations.

'Abdallah al-Nasir said that the problems left behind by the Iraqi invasion in the oil sector are embodied in destroying Kuwait's ability to load oil, to transport coal, and to fight fires. Al-Nasir noted that the destructions in al-Shu'aybah Refinery affected the units and storage tanks mainly. He also said that the crude oil refining unit has a capacity of 160,000 barrels daily. Al-Nasir said that there are three gas production units, each with a capacity of 650 million cubic feet per day.

Qatar

Ministry Official Welcomes Decision on Somalia

JN0612132592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Doha, 6 Dec (WAKH)—Qatar has welcomed the UN Security Council decision to send troops to Somalia, and said it hopes such a measure will provide relief aid to millions of Somalis who have fallen victims to famine and war.

In a statement to QATARI NEWS AGENCY, a responsible Foreign Ministry source said the UN Security Council has made an historic humanitarian decision, one which embodies the principles and objectives of the United Nations and the new world order in establishing peace and stability for peoples and nations. The source said he hopes that the new world order's credibility would also extend to cover other humanitarian issues in the world, particularly the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Welcomes UN Resolution on Somalia

LD0512115192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0303 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Riyadh, 5 December 1992, SPA—[passage omitted] On the situation in Somalia, AL-MADINAH said that the deterioration of the situation in Somalia, which has reached the extent that hundreds of thousands have died from starvation because of the non-arrival of relief, led the Security Council to adopt unanimously a resolution the day before yesterday allowing the United States to lead an urgent military operation to save the victims of starvation in Somalia. [passage omitted]

What is worthy of notice is that the Security Council has asked all the sides, movements, and factions in Somalia to put an end to the battles immediately and to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations and relief organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the stricken population.

It is worth mentioning that this call corresponds to the call made by the Kingdom since the events exploded in sister Somalia and the onset of the starvation disaster. [passage omitted]

The paper concluded by saying that now that the UN Security Council has passed the resolution providing for a military operation to protect the convoys of humanitarian assistance in Somalia, we sincerely hope that this action will defuse the war there and that the Somali brothers will devote themselves to dealing with the starvation disaster, cooperate with the international efforts, and seek peace for the sake of building a new Somalia.

United Arab Emirates

President Orders Military Battalion to Somalia

NC0612193892 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Manama, Dec 6 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait on Sunday announced plans to send troops to Somalia to join U.S.-led Operation Restore Hope aimed at ensuring food distribution to the famine victims there.

UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan ordered the dispatch of an Army battalion, which comprises between 700 and 900 troops, according to the official Emirates news agency WAM.

"The decision reflects the UAE's firm policy in supporting stability and peace in the world," the agency quoted Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nahayyan as saying.

He said the force would be sent in the next few days to join troops from the United States and other nations in Somalia in line with a U.N. Security Council resolution voted Thursday. [passage omitted]

Yemen

State Supports UN Moves in Somalia, Offers Help

JN0512203192 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Statement issued by the Yemeni Government to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Republic of Yemen has been monitoring the painful and tragic conditions brotherly Somalia is experiencing. Having claimed thousands of lives, the situation there borders on a national tragedy.

The Republic of Yemen has hosted many of the refugees who fled the inferno of their country's civil war as an expression of its sympathy with the brotherly Somali people.

Meanwhile, the Republic of Yemen has impressed on all the Somali factions the need to work out a national reconciliation formula stipulating the country's territorial integrity and independence and an end to its destructive civil war. Our country has maintained these efforts.

The Somali crisis has worsened enough that it has become the focus of the international community's attention and led the UN Security Council to pass Resolution 794 on 3 December 1992 calling for military force to provide relief for and ease the suffering of the Somali people.

Motivated by a desire to see an abatement of the suffering and tragedy of the Somali people, the Yemeni Government

[illegible] the Security Council's resolution. The Yemeni Government is prepared to cooperate with the international effort within the framework of the United Nations. It will do what it can to contribute to this humanitarian drive and hopes that the international community will manage to halt this tragedy as soon as possible and help the Somali people lead normal lives free from hunger or the under conditions of tranquility and stability.

Saddam Delivers Message on River Completion

LD0712104392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0807 GMT 7 Dec 92

["Text" of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's message to the Iraqi people and the Arab nation on the occasion of the completion of the "Saddam River" project on 7 December—read by announcer]

[Text] From Saddam Husayn to the sons of our great people, led by the magnificent builders; to the glorious Arab nation; and to the good friends throughout the world: God's peace and mercy be upon you. On the land of glorious Iraq and from the northern part of Baghdad, the capital of faith, glory, and heroism; and to the beginning of the junction with the Arabian Gulf, there, in southern Iraq and in a land, some of which is covered by burning salt under which much has disappeared to prevent the growth of plants and life, and just as the Iraqis wanted this land and what is on it to be, we said to this river: In the name of God be, and it came into being through the faith, determination, and zeal of the sons of great Iraq and the honorable, brave sons of its state in the Military Industrialization Organization, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, and others.

Within only six months it has come into existence, as you see now, a third brother river of Iraq's other rivers. So, the Iraqis gave it the name Saddam River, stretching like a great vein, and which will be a source of wealth and a renewal of the life of the Iraqis after restoring the land and pumping wealth to its surface and into its veins.

The value of this river, O great people, O sons of our eternal nation, O faithful people wherever you are, does not essentially lie in any of its technical details but in the great base of the circumstances of the decision, the action, and the accomplishment.

The decision came after almost two years of siege imposed by the wicked men from the 30-state aggression, who naively thought they could, through their diabolical action, turn the resolute, faithful Iraqis into beggars complaining of hunger and begging for food at the doors of the treasonous sons and their masters, the atheist failures. Perhaps the picture of what is today taking place in Somalia in the form of hunger and death is the picture they had planned and naively wanted for the people of Iraq.

The siege has cut off every resource from Iraq—resources, which the aggressors thought was the base of the Iraqis' capability and faith. These resources include every piece of machinery, equipment, and spare part entering Iraq.

Under these circumstances, a decision was made; and under these circumstances, the believers acted zealously to make their action and accomplishment an additional great miracle, which God wanted as evidence of the capability of those who have faith and determination, and of the fragility of counter inventions and hopes, on which the failures had based their sick dreams.

On the soil of this immortal river and on its banks, the Iraqis assembled 4,000 operable machines and pieces of equipment, including various hydraulic, electrical, wire, and amphibian excavators, as well as river excavators; giant, medium, and small bulldozers; all types of shovels; and [illegible], in addition to graders, rollers, dump trucks, and cranes. Other pieces of equipment were used to fix bridge beams, in addition to cranes trucks to transport water and fuel, and huge numbers of water pumps for drainage purposes, as well as power generators.

On this soil, on the banks of this great river, 6,000 workers assembled, all of them facing challenges, relying on God, making iron malleable in their hands so that it will be, in the name of God, an instrument for good and great achievement. And so, the Saddam River was born.

A greeting of appreciation and love to every heart, mind, and arm in which faith instilled acts of challenge and which faith prompted to respond to the call of national and pan-Arab duty to prove to those who need additional proof that Iraq is great by its faith and kinfolk and that the Arabs are an immortal nation.

A greeting of faith and appreciation and love to all the arms and fists toasted by the sun of June and July, August and September, and hit by the desert wind, which is often blown by the wind to cover this or that part of the river's course in the summer of Iraq, whose high temperatures the Iraqis cherish.

A greeting of admiration and love for every glorious man and woman who performed their duty to complete this great river in only 180 days. The river's length now is 565 km; its width reaches 100 meters on the surface and 50 meters at the bottom; in addition to the huge installations set up on it, including bridges for railways, vehicles, and pedestrians; as well as drainage outlets, waterfalls, navigational systems, and waterways.

Greetings of love and appreciation to the supervisors of this eternal river, headed by Staff Lieutenant General Hamza Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president and overall supervisor of the campaign to execute the Saddam River project. Similar greetings, appreciation, and love to the field supervisors and officials in charge of work teams Major General Engineer Nizar Jum'ah 'Ali al-Qasir, Engineer Mu'ayyad Jawad 'Abd-al-Ghani, Engineer Kamil 'Abd- al-Hamza al-Sawadi, engineer Ibrahim Salim Hasan, Engineer Sami 'Ajmi Karim, Engineer Zaghaiyir 'Abbas Mahmud, Engineer Ra'd Nazim Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim, Engineer Faysal Muhammad Muhammad Amin, Engineer Muhammad Mahmud Muhammad Qurdash, and Engineer Qays 'Ali Ghalib.

Greetings and appreciation to all the state institutions which contributed to the honor of persistent work to complete the river of plentifulness, blessings, and prosperity.

God is great, God is great. God is great. Damned the impossible. God's peace be upon you.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, 12 Jumada al-Akhirah 1413 Hijra, corresponding to 7 December 1992

Mujahidin Reportedly Attack Water Diversion Work

MC0512213592 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] In retaliation for the crimes of the enemy of humanity Saddam against the people in the southern marshlands, the Islamic revolution mujahidin a few days ago launched a lightning attack on the destructive engineering works of the apostate regime on the (al-Batayrah) River between the al-Hakam and [word indistinct] Maymunah areas in heroic al-'Amarah Governorate.

During this heroic attack, our mujahidin destroyed four bulldozers and put several other machines belonging to the tyrant Saddam's regime out of action. They also carried out the people's sentence against a number of workers involved in this vile effort.

It is recalled that the tyrant's gangs running on the (al-Batayrah) with their machines are planning to erect an earthen rampart and several dams to stop the flow of water into the marshlands as part of the policy of aggression by stupid Saddam and his agent regime against the oppressed inhabitants of the marshlands.

Tyrant Saddam is continuing his aggression against the inhabitants of the southern marshlands and is trying to stop the flow of water into the marshlands. He has erected large quantities of vehicles and equipment used to dig and erect earthen ramparts in the [phenomena indistinct] area. Our sources say that Saddam intends through this action to erect a 5-km-long earthen rampart from (al-Shaqqaniyah) to the (al-Shilah) area in the marshlands of al-'Amarah Governorate. These attempts by the regime aim to annihilate the people of the marshlands and destroy their resources. The attempts started last year but were an abysmal failure due to our mujahidin's actions and strong blows. The representatives of Saddam who carry out this engineering project have failed to complete their work.

46 Marshland Villages Said Deprived of Water

MC0513074292 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Water has recently dried up in more than 46 villages in the marshlands of Maysan Governorate following the oppressed regime's crime of the so-called third river.

The sons of these villages confirm that they are now suffering from a severe drought and that their population of more than 40,000 oppressed citizens is facing complete annihilation since most of their farms and their cattle have been completely destroyed. A group of these oppressed people said that the inhabitants of the al-'Amarah marshlands are moving from one area to another on foot since the hostile regime cut off all rivers and erected soil dams to divert the course of these rivers away from the marshlands.

Let us recall that travelers from the villages of al-'Amarah marshlands have confirmed the destruction of many wheat, barley, rice, and vegetable farms, which were the main source of income for the marshlands people. Great damage has also been done to fisheries and cattle raising.

Opposition Demands International Protection Zone

PM0712115092 Paris LE MONDE in French 3 Dec 92 p 6

[Dilwan Nasir report on interview with Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq: "Shiite Opposition Demands Creation of International Protection Zone", date and place of interview not given]

[Text] Tehran—Three months after the UN Security Council imposed an air exclusion zone south of parallel 32 the Iraqi opposition based in Tehran considers the measure entirely inadequate.

"It is a half-measure. It is like administering a half-dose of medicine to a patient, which instead of curing the latter, makes the virus more resistant." Sententious in tone, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim—who, in exile, heads the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a coalition of several Islamic movements, from its headquarters in Tehran—demanded two additional measures: "The Saddam Husayn regime must be prevented from using heavy weapons against the population, and any military presence south of parallel 32 must be prevented." He also urged that missions be sent out to find the detention centers where "collective slaughter" is taking place.

He said that since the introduction of the exclusion zone the situation has steadily worsened for the population of southern Iraq. "There have been huge campaigns of arrests in the towns," he said, "and large-scale military actions in the countryside, especially in the marshes, and some of the infrastructures, especially industrial infrastructures, have been dismantled." Not to mention the fact that the regime is about to complete the creation of a "third river"—a canal designed to dry out the marshes bordering the Tigris and Euphrates in order to "paralyze any movements by the population and the resistance."

The ayatollah believes that if his demands are met the Iraqi regime "will fall like a ripe fruit," because it only survives by means of oppression. He stresses that even the army is partly beyond its control: "Hundreds of officers have recently deserted" and almost 400 of them

have apparently sought refuge in Saudi Arabia and almost as many again in Iran.

Another Iraqi opposition leader, Nizar Haydar—one of the leaders of the Islamic Action Organization (IAO) headed by Ayatollah Muhammad Taqiy-al-Mudarrisi—went still further. He said that the West must impose on Baghdad an international protection zone for the population south of parallel 32, as it did north of parallel 36 for Kurdistan. He said that this would constitute a fatal blow to Saddam Husayn and that the opposition—united at last, following what it has now been agreed to call the "Salah-al-Din congress" in Kurdistan in early November, and equipped with unified command structures—can take over after the present regime's collapse.

This is sooner said than done. Because the military structures are already presenting a problem. Ayatollah al-Hakim criticized their composition, adding: "I condemn the structure (tripartite—a Shiite, Sunni, and a Kurd) of the Presidential Council, which reinforces the divisions between the communities, religions, and regions." He said that it will lead to Iraq's being partitioned. He suggested a body comprising seven or nine members.

"In any case, even if we must accept representation based on communities or regions, the Shiite community is underrepresented in the present composition of the Presidential Council, because they constitute 65-70 percent of the Iraqi population," he said. He warned: "We expect a change. If that does not happen, we will reach a decision." He declined to say more. He rejected the idea of a federation, which was agreed in principle by the "Salah-al-Din congress." "The proposal is premature. Such matters must be discussed in normal circumstances. The situation now is exceptional. We are not hostile to any specific proposal. But all this must be decided by the people."

Ayatollah al-Hakim seems to disagree with the IAO on two issues. While expressing reservations about the Presidential Council's structure and about a federation, the IAO nevertheless states that it accepts the will of the majority at the "Salah-al-Din congress." Its leader, Ayatollah al-Mudarrisi, admits that after the collapse of the Saddam Husayn regime, the opposition could disintegrate and that what he fears most is a division of the army on a "community or regional" basis.

Despite its differences and fears, the opposition is working to make itself known to the international community and has started, since the "Salah-al-Din congress" to send delegations to various countries. Last week one of these delegations visited the United Nations.

U.S. 'Military Interference' in Somalia Reported

JN0512185492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] The U.S. Administration has entrusted General Robert Johnston, a close aide to General Norman Schwarzkopf, who commanded the U.S. military forces during aggression against Iraq, with the task of commanding the U.S. military campaign to interfere in Somalia, as ordered by criminal U.S President George Bush. Johnston currently commands the First Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, California. It is noteworthy that a force of approximately 30,000 troops, mostly Americans, will carry out military interference in Somalia under the cover of securing humanitarian aid. The troops are expected to begin work on 7 December.

Envoy States Readiness To Help With Somalia

TA0512112692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] U.S. Under Secretary of State Frank Wisner has told Israel's ambassador to Washington, Zalman Shoval, of President Bush's decision to dispatch American troops to Somalia. He said the President had asked him to ensure this message reached Prime Minister Rabin's government. Ambassador Shoval, in turn, asked Under Secretary Wisner to tell the President that Israel was prepared to help in any possible way.

Bush Motive for Sending Troops to Somalia Viewed

TA0612110792 Tel Aviv YEDIYOT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Dec 92 p 13

[Commentary by Washington correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay: "Bush Wants To Pass an International Crisis on to Clinton"]

[Text] The 216-year-old history of the United States is checkerboarded with cases of U.S. troops being dispatched to fight on foreign soil. The rationale always was that "the boys" were being sent to defend the United States, its economic and political interests, and the democracies of its Western allies.

On Friday, for the first time in U.S. history, a President decided to dispatch troops to fight for humanitarian motives. This unprecedented move shows that now the cold war is over the United States is expanding its area of responsibility to the international arena.

Bush had two main considerations. First, the responsibility to lead the world in the fulfillment of democratic values. Second, the United States is the only country with enough military power to intervene and bring its influence to bear on any site around the world.

Bush may also have had a personal motive. He wanted to end his term in office with a historic move for posterity in an area which has always been his forte. Critics say he is glad to pass on to Clinton a small international crisis.

This crisis that will compel the president-elect to deal with a complex international problem as soon as he enters office. This is an area in which the former Arkansas governor has relatively little experience and knowledge.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell initially opposed the initiative, but may have soon realized that the operation in Somalia could be used to illustrate to Clinton that even in present times the United States needs a modern army with the ability to intervene rapidly in remote areas.

IDF To Reduce Forces to Northern Settlements

TA0512181892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] The Israeli Defense Force [IDF] will significantly reduce its share in providing security to settlements along confrontation lines in the north starting next year. A message to that effect from the IDF to the settlements says that the IDF will be significantly cutting back on the number of security men and means previously allocated for defending the settlements due to defense budget cuts. The Army will even totally pull out its forces from any settlement where there are more that 72 residents capable of performing guard duties.

Rabin Comments on Peace Talks, Coalition

TA0612132192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1121 GMT 6 Dec 92

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure for a three-day trip to Italy and Britain; live—broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Rabin] ...In the meetings with government leaders, the relevant ministers, and, of course, the parliamentary bodies of these countries, the press, and the Jewish communities, we will concentrate on presenting Israel's peace policy by explaining the situation of the peace talks with the Arab delegations. We also will deal with economic links. Naturally, in the face of what is happening in Europe currently, we will demand more resolute activity, within the legal frameworks of these countries, against anti-Semitism and racism. There will be meetings with the heads of the Jewish communities in each of the countries we will visit. Of course, we will inform them about all the problems that we are facing as a country and of our ties with the country in which they live. We also will call on them to be the pioneers and leaders in strengthening ties between their country and Israel, and in providing economic assistance to Israel in dealing with unemployment, the creation of jobs, etc. These are the aims.

I regard as important bringing the European positions as close as possible to those of Israel, although with the knowledge that gaps will remain, in order to create understanding for the government's reasons in deciding on these positions. It will be a short visit. I will return before the end of the week. From time to time, it is good to have contacts at senior levels between the Israeli Government and those of friendly governments.

[Qol Yisra'el's Shuli Yehimovich] Mr. Prime Minister, on the eve of your visit, there has been sharp public criticism of the plan to expand the government by adding another three ministers. There are members of our party who suggest not adding another Labor minister and making do with new ministers from the coalition partners. Are you considering such a possibility?

[Rabin] First of all, the facts have to be made clear. The current government is one of the smallest governments

if not the smallest, over the past 30 years as regards the number of ministers serving in it. I am surprised by the critics who did not make their voices heard when coalitions had over 20 ministers. Therefore, we first have to be factual. The anticipated growth in the number of ministers comes from a long-time demand by Meretz, the second largest party in the coalition, to be given another minister. When one of the parties in the coalition receives an additional ministerial post, I at least have to suggest to the other two participants to maintain the balance. The expansion does not derive from a demand by Labor or SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] to expand the government. Following the disclosure of the commitment to Meretz, other ministerial posts will be considered. Both of the other two parties, SHAS and Labor, will have to decide whether they want to make use of this offer.

[Unidentified correspondent] There are low expectations as another round of peace talks begins in Washington tomorrow. The Palestinian delegation is not even sending all of its representatives. What is your view of the situation?

[Rabin] I still believe that the peace talks will yield agreements by the end of 1993. I know that right now some people are taking time out. These are mainly the Arab delegations, and perhaps even more so the Palestinian delegation of residents of the territories. They all are waiting for the changes that are due to take place in the U.S. Government, but the Palestinian delegation may have additional problems. We must remember that this delegation, unlike the other three, does not have a cohesive leadership. Also, some approaching dates [fifth anniversary of the intifadah] may have placed them in an even more difficult situation. But, I repeat: We will pursue the peace negotiations. I believe that the other three delegations will come to the talks with all of their representatives, and even if the entire Palestinian delegation does not arrive, we will remain true to our commitment to hold the negotiations. I repeat: I believe that we will attain an agreement in 1993—if not with all the delegations, then at least with some of them.

[IDF correspondent Ge'ula Even] Mr. Rabin, I would like to return to the political issue in the wake of your remarks that Meretz was the party that has been asking that another of its members be appointed minister. Do you blame them for the large number of cabinet ministers?

[Rabin] I was not blaming anyone, I was merely stating facts. Meretz knew what its demand meant. When presented with their request in the past, I accepted it in principle while asking that the actual appointment be postponed. Naturally, the rise in the number of ministers stems first and foremost from one party's demand, and not from any demands for increased representation in the cabinet by the other two coalition components.

[Even] Has it been decided that the new cabinet appointments will be completed after your return from abroad?

[Rabin] For the time being, I gave Meretz, SHAS, and the Labor ministers the answers I already have specified. We have not as yet discussed the distribution of portfolios. Where Labor and SHAS are concerned, there has been no decision on the appointment of additional ministers, if any.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, in view of your visit to Europe and in the wake of President Mitterrand's visit to Israel, do you believe that Europe has a role in promoting the peace process?

[Rabin] I always have believed and I still believe that Europe can make a significant contribution to the promotion of the peace talks, mainly in the sphere of multilateral negotiations. Twelve Arab countries, if I am not mistaken, are participating in the multilateral negotiations, in addition to two of four delegations in the bilateral negotiations. Many countries—from Japan to Canada and Australia—are participating in the multilateral talks. I believe that the multilateral negotiations will provide the region's inhabitants, the region's countries, the region's governments with a picture of how peace can be a blessing to all the countries and all the inhabitants of the region, the degree of economic and other advancement all the region's countries will enjoy if—or rather when—we reach peace.

I have no doubt that it is the job of the multilateral negotiations to enlighten the Arab nations, the Arab governments of how much they stand to lose if the state of war continues, and to let them know what resources are being wasted, what resources can be used to develop the entire region when peace is achieved. Therefore, I believe that Europe has a preeminent role in this sphere.

It should be remembered that the bilateral negotiations are based on the principle that those who are partners in today's war, or in a state of war, or in violence and terrorism, are the same parties that will have to put an end to this reality and to build peace. No one can end the war and build peace but those who are at war, namely, the neighboring Arab countries, the Palestinians in the territories, and Israel. Therefore, the responsibility for ending the war and terrorism and for building peace lies solely with those who are involved in them at present. And that is why face-to-face bilateral negotiations are the basis.

The other parties that can contribute naturally are the cosponsors, the United States and the former USSR, the present Russia—but mainly the United States. We have learned that when something happens anywhere in the world, no one other than the United States can put the United Nations in action. An example of that is the dispatch of troops to Somalia. As long as the United States made no decision on that, no one else had any acceptable solution for this awesome humanitarian problem, the events in Somalia. Thus, the United States has a unique role. It has a role, first and foremost, in the bilateral negotiations. Its [illegible] role does not consist of

coercing or interfering; rather, the United States can create the appropriate atmosphere and conditions for these negotiations.

It should be remembered that it was the United States, through its secretary of state, Baker, that brought about the opening of the Madrid conference in the first place. The U.S. interaction with the parties to the negotiations was the factor that yielded the coordinated invitation to the Madrid conference. It is the United States that still maintains this framework.

Syrian Threats, Warnings 'Unacceptable'

TA0612072492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the negotiating team with Syria, by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] How should Israel respond to the warning issued by the Syrian foreign minister that his country would walk out of the talks if no progress is made?

[Rabinovich] We should tell him—not by making pronouncements, we are not conducting a war of words and do not want to be dragged into such a war—that we will continue to conduct the talks as we have been doing up to now. We have told the Syrian delegation before that we will not negotiate under threats, whether made during the talks themselves or outside the negotiating room. Since the negotiating atmosphere in recent weeks has always been businesslike, I hope that expression was a one-time slip and not....

[Einstein, interrupting] Do you see it as a tactical move or an issue of substance?

[Rabinovich] I believe it is tactical because if the declaration is read properly it is much weaker than its headline. It says: If the United States does not continue its commitment to the peace process then...[pauses] In other words, it deals with a hypothetical situation aimed at the U.S. Administration and is mildly worded. The use of a warning or threat is, however, unacceptable to us.

[Einstein] Is the Israeli delegation bringing with it any new proposals or formulae to the talks with Syria?

[Rabinovich] No, we are not bringing anything. We believe that what we offered the last time is more than enough. It is clear not only to us, but from the reaction in the international media, and especially the U.S. media, as well as other reaction, that everybody understands that it is Syria that has to take the next step. That is also what we believe.

[Einstein] Based on the latest pronouncement by the Syrian foreign minister, is it realistic to expect Syria to bring new proposals?

[Rabinovich] I believe that the reality of negotiations—not only Israeli-Syrian, but others also—is that many times public declarations do not reflect actions, and I hope that is also the case here.

[Einstein] The previous round of talks ended in deadlock. Do you expect that at least some joint agenda or declaration can be reached between the two delegations?

[Rabinovich] I believe so, and I think the word deadlock does not accurately describe the last day of the previous round, in which we discussed in quite a detailed way what both sides—and I stress, both sides—should do in order to reach some joint declaration in this round. Both sides took the issue seriously and made their views known in a cordial atmosphere. We also talked in a businesslike manner. I definitely think it is not unrealistic to hope that we can make progress this time.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 6 December, in a pool report on pages 1 and 8, writes: "Israel expects Syria to respond to its call to say what Damascus means by peace in return for an Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights. The Israeli delegation will reiterate in the talks that the settlement will include a territorial consideration, but will not be ready to make a commitment about the scope of the withdrawal. Professor Rabinovich said that the clause in the draft declaration dealing with security arrangements is almost ready and will say that both sides recognize the need to set up a security situation based on mutuality, which will become, with peace and territory, one of the three bases for the future agreement."]

Reaction to U.S. Move Into Somalia Reported

Brotherhood Critical

JN0712065392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Dec 92 p 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Two distinct political groupings in Jordan, including the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, have come out strongly against the American troop deployment in war-torn Somalia after the U.N. Security Council authorised the use of force to ensure that international relief supplies reach the starving millions in the Horn of Africa country.

In a press statement issued Sunday in the name of the parliamentary office of the Islamic Movement, the Brotherhood accused the U.S. of trying to serve its "strategic and economic objectives" in the Horn of Africa by establishing a military presence in Somalia.

In an advertisement appearing in a local paper, a pan-Arab nationalist group—Liberal Unionists—also levelled similar charges against Washington.

Both groups charged that the U.S. was seeking to further consolidate what they described as the American control of Arab oil wealth in the wake of the Gulf crisis by establishing a base in the Horn of Africa to enable itself to defend sealanes and oil tankers.

Also common in both group's charges was a theme that Washington's ultimate objectives included a close monitoring of Sudan and Yemen, two other Arab countries whose relations with the U.S. remain strained, and ensure Israeli domination by supporting the Jewish state's presence in Ethiopia.

The Brotherhood, which proposed a resolution and pushed it through the Lower House of Parliament condemning the American move later Sunday, asserted in its press release that "blocking the Islamic march in Africa" was also one of the American goals in sending troops to Somalia.

Both the Brotherhood and the Liberal Unionists deplored the Arab handling of the Gulf crisis and the destruction of Iraq's military strength and were harshly critical of what they said were Arab inability and apathy which opened the way for the U.S. and its "hegemonistic, aggressive" forces to have a foothold in Somalia under the "guise of humanitarian relief."

While the Liberal Unionists, assailing "Arab impotence and indifference" towards Somalia, confined their call for immediate action to handle the Somalia crisis within the Arab context, the Brotherhood called for Arab and Islamic action to feed the hungry in Somalia.

"We view the inter-Arab killing and the death by starvation in Somalia as a reflection of the scandalous Arab inability to confront...the issues facing Arab Nation," said the Unionists' statement.

"We call on the Arabs to shelve their differences and come to the rescue of Somalia, Sudan and Yemen before it is too late," it added.

"The Arab League must move today with the biggest force possible to provide food for the Somali people and replace the foreign forces which arrived in Somalia even before the U.S. Security Council approved it," it said.

'A'ishah al-Razim, a member of the central committee of the Liberal Unionist group—as yet not a registered political party—said the faction was "not against humanitarian relief efforts in Somalia, but opposes the threat that the Americans pose by seeking to control the Bab el Mandeb"—the entrance to the Red Sea.

The group, which Ms. al-Razim, said was led by Dr. Anis al- Mu'ashshir "rejects the role played by the U.N. in facilitating the American objectives," Mr. al-Razim did not explain why the group waited until the American move to issue any statement on the Somalia crisis despite widespread reports of misery, starvation and death in the country for months.

In almost identical language, the Brotherhood statement said: "If the U.S. had entered the Gulf war under the pretext of international legitimacy and protecting the weak from the strong, it now justifies its entry to Somalia under the pretext of humanitarian objectives and international relief and saving the country from starvation and deprivation."

"The Arab and Islamic nations should solve the problems of Arab Muslim Somalia by unifying its warring factions, protecting the country and feeding its hungry," it said.

"We call on all warring Somali factions to settle their differences and stand united in the face of the American invasion and military occupation of their country at a time when all people are looking forward to liberty and freedom, and to turn the country into a graveyard for the invaders," it added. No spokesman for the movement was immediately available for further comment.

Diplomatic sources said meanwhile that another Jordanian political group—which was not immediately identified—had sent a "message of support for the American move" into Somalia.

"It is a message which applauded the American action," said one diplomatic source, adding that it was sent to the U.S. embassy in Amman.

'Direct Threat' Against Sudan

JN0612134792 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Dec 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Occupying Somalia, Threatening Sudan"]

[Text] Once again, the United Nations has confirmed its double standards in dealing with international issues. This came when the UN Security Council decided to use force in a military operation led by the United States under the pretext of securing the arrival of humanitarian assistance to the Somalis who are suffering hunger, misery, and anguish as a result of the barbaric fighting which has been going on between warring parties for months.

The brotherly Somali people have suffered a great deal as a result of the internal crisis. We do not deny their need for humanitarian assistance and for a national reconciliation that would end the terrible massacres. But really, does securing the arrival of humanitarian aid to those who need it require the mobilization of these huge forces with the participation of major powers, led by the United States, and the formation of a new unholy alliance?

We question the U.S. intentions behind leading this strike force and occupying Somalia. The issue does not require the use of a huge U.S. force and the forces of some other allied states. Before the UN Security Council decided to use military force in Somalia, Washington's condition was that it should be the leader of "Operation Restore Hope," knowing ahead of time that no one would object to this condition. This is especially so since the UN Security Council has become totally subjugated to the U.S. hegemony since the Gulf crisis and since the imposition of the well-known unjust resolutions against Iraq.

We believe that the U.S. occupation of Somalia; the use of U.S. naval, air, and ground weapons in this operation; and its request for other countries neighboring Somalia—such as Djibouti and others—to provide facilities for its aircraft go beyond the requirements of the situation in Somalia. This operation appears to be a direct threat to brotherly Sudan. It may well be a prelude to a military aggression against it, led by the United States and its big and small allies, under the pretext that the Sudanese Government is violating human rights in the South.

What increases our apprehension is a resolution adopted by a major UN committee yesterday at a time when U.S. forces are beginning to arrive in Somalia. This resolution accuses brotherly Sudan of adopting a scorched earth policy against rebels in the South and of violating human rights there. Moreover, the resolution contains a veiled threat to Sudan. Indeed, a U.S. official went so far as to describe the situation in southern Sudan as similar to the events in Somalia and called for paving the way for international organizations to intervene there.

One cannot separate the clear threats against brotherly Sudan from the aggressive western campaign, led by Washington with the participation of some regimes in the region—a campaign that has been going on for two years and is escalating rapidly—as well as the continued pressures against the national pan-Arab regime in brotherly Sudan because of its independent pan-Arab stand against U.S. hegemony. This campaign became more obvious when Sudan chose to support Iraq against the 30-state aggression, and when it dared to break the unjust siege by sending the first planeload of meat to Baghdad since the imposition of the siege. Moreover, Sudan succeeded to become self-reliant, produce wheat and food with a surplus, and to score important victories over the separatists in the South. These national and pan-Arab trends and policies have made the United States and its allies angry with the ruling regime in Sudan.

The pretext of defending human rights has become a rejected pretext and one that deceives nobody. Indeed, the United States found this pretext an opportunity to impose its hegemony on the world and an excuse to strike at the national regimes, wherever they may be, especially in the Arab homeland, taking advantage of its total control over the UN Security Council and the international organization. It seems that the defeated Bush administration is trying to restore its image by making another foolish decision that affirms the hegemony of the U.S. power on the world.

What we want to know is why the international organization agrees to the use of force against Iraq and in Somalia and perhaps tomorrow in Sudan and Cuba while it refuses to use it in Bosnia-Herzegovina to stop the massacres and ethnic genocide committed by the Serbs? Indeed, the United Nations cannot impose the implementation of its own resolutions that deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict because Israel is a strategic ally of the United States.

Is this not further proof of the double standards used by the international organization?

U.S. Accused of 'False Concern'

JN0512135992 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Dec 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial]

[Text] Let us brush aside the claim that the U.S. conscience suddenly realizing the Somali tragedy is driving the U.S. Government to decide to rescue these people. This conscience has yet to realize the tragedy of the Palestinian people, which began 44 years ago and is expanding rapidly. Moreover, after 28 months the U.S. conscience has not been aroused to the Iraqi children, sick people, and other citizens being annihilated. This conscience did not arise after one and a half decades of civil war in Lebanon and almost a year and a half of civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Indeed, this conscience has yet to arise after more than half a century since two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan and since a racist war, using all kinds of hideous weapons, was waged against the heroic people of Vietnam.

Hence, the issue is not one of conscience. It is an issue of U.S. persistence to establish a new desert alliance taking the form of a shield during military mobilization and the form of a storm during the actual attack, a new alliance that would achieve the same results as those realized in the Gulf, namely total control over oil resources and operations to loot the nation's wealth both in this generation and ones to come. This alliance is designed to weigh heavily on the homeland's chest, using the Arabs who abandoned their allegiance, affiliation, and honor.

The United States will enter Somalia not out of a concern for its remaining people but as part of their designs on that country's uranium and oil riches. The United States will advance into Somalia, enjoying the blessing of the colluding Arab and foreign parties, not in defense of human dignity and their supposed right to that country but to establish a military and economic base from which they can proceed to practice the evil and conspiratorial acts which they have mastered and for which they are so well known. If this false concern for the lives of the Somali people emanates from human morals and ethics or even from a reawakening of conscience, then it would have been better for this concern to manifest itself toward the Iraqis, Palestinians, Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Christians and Muslims of Lebanon. It would have also been better for this concern to encompass the entire world, with all its people and all its tragedies. There are wars no less fierce, harsh, or lowly than the Somali civil war. So long as U.S. intentions are not based on these ethics and do not emanate from a revived conscience, we hope to God that the U.S. calculations prove incorrect and that the Somalis do not become extremely weary. We also hope to God that the arrival of Americans in Somalia will be a step toward uniting the Somalis to defend their country's dignity, honor, and resources. In addition, we see U.S. involvement in Somalia as another opportunity for a small people with limited resources to humiliate the new world giant, just like in Vietnam.

Peace Delegation Depart for Talks in Washington

JN0512141792 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Abu-Jabir's comments recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Jordan's delegation to the Middle East peace talks left for Washington today to take part in the eighth round of negotiations, due to start on Monday. The delegation's departure came one day after Arab foreign ministers unanimously decided in Lebanon to attend the next round.

Returning from Beirut today, the foreign minister, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, praised Arab coordination at the meeting and voiced hope that the forthcoming round would achieve progress. A tone of optimism was voiced at the end of a meeting of multilateral Middle East talks in London, where negotiators predicted a possible peace within months.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir returned to Amman today from Lebanon, where he took part in the conference of the Arab parties engaged in peace negotiations with Israel. The ministers had decided unanimously to attend the next round of talks in Washington, due on Monday.

In an arrival statement, Dr. Abu-Jabir told Radio Jordan:

[Abu-Jabir] There was different evaluations from the different delegations. The idea was, the general idea was, that things are not moving as fast as we would have liked them to move but that, considering the depth and the breadth and the historicity [as heard] of the conflict, probably things are not very far from where they should be.

[Announcer] The foreign minister commented on whether the change of the U.S. Government is going to affect the speed of the peace process:

[Abu-Jabir] That is something we don't know, and we have to think about and to see how the new president-elect would behave. So far, he has indicated his interest, and he said that he wants the peace process to continue and that there is a continuity in it. The second point is that the President-elect has already said that there is thought that he might appoint a special envoy for the peace process. That is another indication of his interest. But most important than all of that is that it is our land that is occupied, our rights that have been violated, our people that have become refugees. So, it is, for us, really to fight for our rights, defend these rights, present our point of view to the whole world, and see what we can come up with. Surely, the two sponsors are important, and their input is very valuable and very welcome, but in the final analysis it is our rights, it is our land, it is our Jerusalem, it is our people, and we have to present our point of view to the world in the best way that we know how.

[Announcer] But did the conference produce any decisions which will be taken at the forthcoming round of talks in Washington?

[Abu-Jabir] We have decided to participate in this round. That is the most important thing. But, then, this is a historical struggle. It is at least 100 years on the ideological level, and 40, 50 years on the military level. I mean such a conflict with the depth and the breadth of it, to people are involved, rights, history, it will be premature, maybe naive to even think that it might be solved by one round, or two rounds, or three rounds. Again, in the final analysis, we have a just case, and this just case we must present to the whole world in the best way we know how. And I think we are presenting—and I say this with modesty—we are presenting all of the delegations—whether the Jordanian or the Palestinian or the Lebanese or the Syrian—we are presenting it in a good way, and we are along a long process, which we know it is going to be long and tedious and complicated.

[Announcer] Meanwhile, the Jordanian delegation to Middle East peace talks departed for Washington for the

next round of bilateral negotiations with Israel. Head of the delegation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, said in a departure statement he hoped that Israel will be ready this time to indulge in substantive negotiations. He said Jordan is committed to the peace process and hopes to achieve progress in the upcoming round of negotiations.

At the end of a two-day meeting of multilateral peace talks in London yesterday, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin predicted a possible Middle East peace agreement within months. Beilin said: The Israeli Government understands that there is another side with rights, with problems, and with its own tragedy. Palestinian negotiator Muhammad al-Hallaj said at a separate London news conference that there was reason for optimism. He said he detected more seriousness and more rationality in Israel's attitude. Al-Hallaj said his delegation was pleased that Palestinians from outside the occupied territories are now allowed to participate in all five working groups. Previously, they could discuss only refugees and economic development.

The Israeli and Palestinian optimism in London gave U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian hope that the next full round of peace talks would go well. He told reporters in London that this effort to reach out to one another is precisely the kind of approach required to bridge the gap and resolve difficulties.

However, Djerejian said there was no agreement still on a Palestinian request for two more working groups on Palestinian human rights and on Jerusalem.

Abu-Jabir Comments

JN0712072692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Dec 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir said on Sunday that the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations bitterly criticised by the Palestinians for lack of progress were proceeding as well as could be expected.

"The peace process is probably where it should be in view of the fact that it is a long, tedious, complicated, widespread conflict...," Dr. Abu-Jabir told foreign reporters.

"These things are too difficult to resolve in a few days or weeks or months even," he said.

"The peace process is probably where it should be," he said.

"It would be unrealistic to say that the conflict could be resolved overnight," he added.

Abu-Jabir spoke as the Palestinian delegation, trimmed down to four delegates from the usual 14 members, left for the eighth round of scheduled to start Monday. [sentence as published]

The Arab negotiators are returning to Washington for the opening on Monday of the eighth round of peace talks.

The slow pace of the negotiations, begun over a year ago in Madrid, had prompted Palestinian leaders pressured by rejectionists to consider boycotting the current round.

"The Palestinians are upset—it is natural. They are trying to find a way out of this crisis and we are trying to help," said Dr. Abu-Jabir.

He said the Jordanian team's first priority would be pressing Israel to agree to clarify points of a draft joint agenda governing future talks.

"The Israelis have to agree," he said.

Jordan is seeking changes in parts of the language of the document worked out by the negotiating teams at the last round of talks.

Israel will also ask for certain unspecified changes from the Jordanians, reports said.

The agenda, which talks of an eventual peace treaty between the two states, is the most visible progress reached between Israel and any of the Arab sides in over a year of negotiations.

However, Jordan, like the other Arab states, has committed itself into holding off on any peace treaty with Israel until an overall settlement based on the return of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with the Jewish state.

"The Israelis must withdraw from the occupied territories," including East Jerusalem, Dr. Abu-Jabir said. [passage omitted]

Shammas, Delegation Members Leave for Washington

NC0512075792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent reported from Beirut Airport a short time ago that Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, accompanied by Jihad Murtada and Samir Mubarak, left for Washington via London this morning. Ja'far Mu'awiyah will leave in the afternoon. Officers Nasif 'Ubayd and Na'im Fayah left for Washington earlier.

Dispatch of U.S. Troops to Somalia Condemned

U.S. Wants to 'Exploit' Country

LD0412195492 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 4, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese alim 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah here today condemned the dispatch of American troops to Somalia.

He said Washington does not really want to help the strife-torn people of Somalia but, worsening the human tragedy in the Horn of Africa, wishes to exploit the opportunity for broadening its political, militaristic and economic foothold in Africa.

The Lebanese alim also called on the Arab side to the talks with the Zionist regime to quit the deadlock negotiations.

By quitting the talks, the Arab side will be able to save its face and thereby inflict a blow on the ruling world political system and will reduce the pressure the Zionist regime is exerting on the Palestinians to agree to its demands.

Sha'ban Denounces 'Occupation'

LD0412213192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, head of Lebanon's Islamic Unification [tawhid] Movement, has said: The military occupation by America of the African country of Somalia falls within the framework of efforts to do away with the Zionist regime's anxiety about the spread of Islamic influence in Asia and Africa. According to the Central News Unit from Beirut, he said this in his Friday prayer sermons in the city of Tripoli in northern Lebanon. He added: The military occupation of Somalia by America threatens the future of nearby countries such as Sudan and Algeria, because America's aim in the dispatch of military forces to the Horn of Africa is to lay siege to the Islamic awakening opposed to American hegemony.

Troops Not Going To Help Somalis

NC0512081792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Commenting on the new U.S. onslaught against the Arab and Islamic region, Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has declared: We do not believe that this number of U.S. troops is going to Somalia to help the Somalis. We do not trust the United States. It has demonstrated to us that it is not a charitable society but intervenes for its own interests and seeks to constrain the world with military power to threaten any country that rebels against it.

Noting that Somalia is an Arab country and an OAU member, his eminence asked why the Arab countries are not intervening to rescue it. He explained that most Arab and African organizations merely fulfill U.S. wishes.

'Colonialist U.S. Goals' Cited

NC0712101492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0650 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Political commentary: "Operation Restore Hope"]

[Text] Operation Restore Hope is the new name chosen by George Bush to refer to landing the U.S. Army on Somali territory. This is the third time George Bush has ordered a major U.S. operation outside the United States. The first was in Panama in 1989 and the second in the Gulf in 1990. It is the first time in UN history that international military troops are being sent to an independent state without a request from its government, even without asking its permission. The reason, says Bush, is that there is no government in Somalia. The real reason, though, is that the United States is acting as if it was the whole world's government, one that first makes the decision, makes the arrangements, and does the calculations before the UN comes along to draft the legal, international, and legitimate grounds for it.

It would be an insult to false testimony to say that the UN is now a mere false witness, because it is much more than this. It is a one-eyed judge and devil's advocate that acts as an instigator, drafts the justifications, and works hard to cover up the injustice of the oppressors and the guilt of the aggressors. The best proof of this is that only one week after the United States proposed the intervention, permission was granted and the experts started to move. This is when the United States wants something. But when it does not, Butrus Butrus-Ghali objects to military intervention to stop the massacre in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cyrus Vance attends the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers meeting to pressure the Saudi foreign minister to soften the tone of their statement and even it and to remain in line with the resolutions and guidelines he drafted along with his colleague EC representative David Owen. This clearly shows when there is a green light from the United States. In such a case, the resolution would be described as historic—as Butrus-Ghali mentioned—and implementation would be as fast as aircraft, aircraft carriers, and the rest of the ancillary items.

The distance between the Gulf and the Indian Ocean is a stone's throw. Within days the barges will arrive and the Marines will land on the Somali shore to control Mogadishu and clear landing zones from which troops could

advance, particularly toward the north, where the Somali Islamic Union Movement [harakat al-ittihad al-islami al-somali] is in control. According to its Spokesman Shaykh Nuri, the movement has taken it upon itself to enlighten the tribes and infiltrate all urban and rural areas to ease tribalism and spread the concepts of unity, on which all the oppressed and starving people of Somalia agree.

A review of the names of the warring Somali armed organizations and groups, the bloody conflict among which coincided with a choking famine in the country, shows that the situation is ideal for U.S. exploitation. It also shows that the country ruled by Siad Barre from 1969 to 1991 in the name of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party scrubs the new U.S. vacuum cleaner, which began in the Soviet Union and its socialist camp and later reached Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Examples are Ethiopia, the Ogaden, Eritrea, south Sudan, Egypt, and Algeria, to mention a few. There the United States has consistently backed certain regimes and overthrown others. In every case, the peoples and countries are being fragmented as much as possible to make it easy for the arrogant American to take over, claiming that this country, for instance, has no government, the other is being eaten up by chaos, the third is strangled by famine, and the fourth is threatened by Islamic terrorism and extremism. Thus he could tighten his grip on Africa to seize its underground riches and rush, ahead of other colonialists, to control the wealth, territory, and the people.

This is what is happening in Somalia, a still-unexplored zone of influence and an area with a vacuum that must be filled by U.S. domination only. If we add to this the media attempt to improve the image of the United States and its fascist President Bush with the help of some aid and relief supplies, the colonialist U.S. goals behind the occupation of Somali—which Bush calls Operation Restore Hope—will be clear. What hope? His hope of improving his image, his country's hope of full hegemony over the world's resources and utilities, and the great satan's hope of generalizing its policy throughout the universe and overthrowing the regimes that refuse to submit and that understand the malicious game, such as in Sudan and Islamic Iran?

Before we conclude, we must note that the policy of fragmentation is an absolute Jewish policy. Events in Somalia are an attempt to cover up what is being concocted in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The proposals that seek division, not unity, advanced by conferences here and there, such as the Geneva conference, remain floating for Bosnia; these proposals failed to attract attention while the racist Serbs annihilate the 5 million Muslims and eliminate their mosques and tombs and any remaining trace.

After relying on God, we say that the Islamic answer will not be late, neither here nor there. The beginning is to identify the goals of the colonialist game. This is what happened, is happening, and is now known to the nation.

Bawayz Leaves for Paris Ministers' Meeting

NC0512203292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Faris Bawayz, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs, left Beirut for Paris this afternoon. He will participate there in the francophone foreign ministers meeting, due to be held 7-9 December. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Leaves for Saudi Arabia on Private Visit

NC0412215592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut for Jeddah this evening on a two-day private visit. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Figures Discuss Political Sectarianism

NC0612094292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah criticized those who want to abolish political sectarianism but at the same time advocate separating the mosque and church from politics on the grounds that this would save the country from political sectarianism. He asked: Did sectarianism in Lebanon result from the political activities of religious scholars? Who created the Lebanese sectarian system? France created it through politicians.

Former Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli criticized President Ilyas al-Hirawi's call for abolishing political sectarianism from the hearts before striking it out from the texts. Al-Tufayli said that al-Hirawi is hiding the fact that he does not want political Maronism to be overthrown and wants to maintain the Maronite sect's dominance and hegemony.

In a Friday prayer sermon, al-Tufayli asked: What does it mean when President al-Hirawi goes to the Defense Ministry and tells the Army commander that he is the one in charge? What about the role of the state's legislative and executive authorities?

Al-Tufayli said he believes that some people's request for extra time to abolish political sectarianism is a maneuver to waste time and that they are counting on possible international changes to obstruct this effort.

Haj Husayn Khalil, chairman of Hizballah's Political Bureau, told AL-DIYAR newspaper: We support abolishing political sectarianism. By this we mean forming a government system in which sectarian affiliation is not the criterion for attaining the posts of president, Chamber of Deputies speaker, and prime minister.

Husayn Khalil remarked that one of Hizballah's objectives in joining the parliament is to participate in and hasten the abolishment of political sectarianism.

Nonwithdrawal of Syrian Forces Viewed

NC0412113492 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Nov 92 p 2

[Article by Emile Khuri]

[Excerpts] The anniversary of independence has passed, but the surprise announcement that President Ilyas al-Hirawi was supposedly to make to the Lebanese people that the Syrian forces had begun redeploying according to al-Ta'if agreement did not take place. Perhaps the surprise announcement was not made because the president expected the Lebanese-Syrian Supreme Council to meet as a first function of al-Hariri's government, but for various reasons this meeting was not held.

Following the removal of General Michel 'Awn, President al-Hirawi announced on 7 November 1990 a schedule that included the following: "After Greater Beirut, a national reconciliation government will be formed to include six state ministers from militia leaders, the militias will be disbanded before 21 March 1991, and the Syrian forces will be redeployed in al-Biqa' by 21 September 1992."

Only a little of this presidential schedule has been implemented. No government with a real national reconciliation character has been formed; the disbanding and disarming of militias has not been completed; and the Syrian forces have not redeployed in al-Biqa'. Thus the celebration of independence passed without independence—it passed with just a reminder of it, a day emptied of its content, as Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr said in his Sunday sermon. For independence to be complete, the Lebanese Army alone must be deployed in all parts of Lebanon so the national sovereignty will be complete and Lebanon decisionmaking will be sovereign, free, and independent, showing the existence of a strong, capable state.

Israel did not implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 or withdraw from the Lebanese territory it occupies and the United States—which reiterates its eagerness to maintain Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence—has not prompted Israel to implement the resolution.

Syria agreed in al-Ta'if conference to begin redeploying its forces in al-Biqa' two years from the date of approval of constitutional reforms. It strongly objected that the first report of the higher tripartite Arab committee should stipulate six months for the withdrawal of these forces. It is now arguing about the interpretation of the article concerning redeployment and believes the two years should begin from the date the elimination of political sectarianism is approved. During a visit by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Syria agreed in principle to begin redeploying its forces in December, not in September as the U.S. secretary requested.

When Syria insisted on holding the parliamentary election in Lebanon on schedule and rejected any postponement, many thought the withdrawal to al-Biqa' would take place after the election. The election took place, but there was nothing to indicate that the withdrawal would occur at any given time.

The Syrian information minister made a new statement in which he said the withdrawal of the Syrian forces now is out of the question, despite the formation of a new government and a new legislative authority in Lebanon, which will decide on the possibility of dispensing with these forces.

Lebanese Defense Minister Mahsin Dalul earlier made an explicit statement on redeployment, saying: "We say frankly that as long as we need the Syrian forces, there is no deadline between Lebanon and Syria. There is more to the issue than a two-year period ... [ellipsis as published]; raising the issue of redeployment is wrong and treasonous. We have problems other than redeployment."

Although Minister Dalul went much further in his statement than other ministers in their remarks on redeployment—when he described the issue as treasonous—the political and spiritual leaders, which in the past attacked these ministers' statements, maintained silence this time as if they had begun to accept the fait accompli. [passage omitted]

Is it the Lebanese Army's readiness or not that determine the date for the redeployment of the Syrian forces?

If it is the Army's preparedness that determines this, what quarter is responsible for it not being fully prepared? Is it the Lebanese Government, the Syrian Government, or both?

Some say the Lebanese Government is responsible for not getting the Army ready to take over. The state has been unable to do that during the two years stipulated in al-Ta'if agreement and since the "Arab deterrent forces" entered Lebanon in 1976. The government must be blamed for its continuing dependence on outside forces to maintain security.

Some others say the Syrian Government is responsible, because it was given the responsibility under al-Ta'if agreement to establish a strong Lebanese state and an army capable of deploying throughout Lebanon within two years. [passage omitted]

This period ended on 22 September. Some ministers, however, have been saying that the Army is not prepared yet, the state still needs the support of the Syrian forces, the withdrawal of these forces will not be considered as long as Israel occupies part of the south and western al-Biqa', and that Lebanon has problems other than redeployment.

Such statements confirm an old one by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in which he said: "The Syrian forces entered Lebanon without asking anyone's permission and will leave without asking anyone." [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Returns From Beirut; Talks to Reporters

JN0512153092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar' and his delegation have returned home from Bayt Miri in Lebanon after attending meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the Middle East peace process, which were concluded this morning.

Al-Shar' was accompanied to the Lebanese-Syrian border by 'Abdallah al-Amin, Lebanese minister of state and minister of labor, and the chief of protocol at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry.

Prior to his departure from Bayt Miri, the foreign minister answered some questions posed by reporters on the coordination meetings held in Bayt Miri yesterday, the Washington rounds of peace talks, and Syria's position on these talks, which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. He noted that Syria does not expect a substantial change in U.S. policy.

Interior Minister Confers With Egyptian Official

JN0612160292 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1535 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Damascus, 6 Dec (SANA)—Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah this morning received Major General Muhammad Hilmi Salih, first assistant to the Egyptian interior minister.

The meeting was attended by Maj. Gen. Ahmad Sa'id al-Salih, assistant to the interior minister, members of the negotiating delegation, and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

Talks at the meeting dealt with relations of cooperation between the Interior Ministries in the two fraternal countries and ways of developing them, particularly in the field of combating narcotics and all sorts of crimes.

Discussions also dealt with the agreements concluded by the two ministries and ways of developing them in the interest of the two fraternal peoples. [passage omitted]

Czechoslovak Deputy Premier Arrives for Talks

JN0612164792 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Damascus, 6 Dec (SANA)—Rudolf Filkus, 1st deputy prime minister of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, arrived in Damascus this evening on a several-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was received upon arrival at Damascus' international airport by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs. He was also received by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Sulwy'i, minister of state for planning affairs; and a number of ministerial assistants, Syrian officials, and the Czechoslovak ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Filkus expressed pleasure over his visit to Syria, a friendly country that has excellent relations with the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

The visiting official said that during the visit, he will hold talks with Syrian officials on international affairs, current international developments, and issues of mutual concern.

Talks will also deal with bilateral relations in various fields which are witnessing good progress, particularly in the economic field.

Filkus concluded his statement by saying: I have the impression that we will be able to realize the desired objectives of this visit and achieve satisfactory results. [passage omitted]

Assembly Speaker Receives German Parliamentarians

JN0112155392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah received at noon today the German parliamentary delegation led by Dr. Wolfgang Goensowein, chairman of the Environment and Environment Protection Committee in the German parliament [title as received]. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly; Dr. Muhyi-al-Din Jum'ah, chairman of the Environment Committee; and the German ambassador in Damascus.

Qaddurah presented a detailed review of the democratic process and parliamentary life in Syria and the role, work, and activities of the People's Assembly and its committees.

The talks dealt with bilateral parliamentary relations. The two stressed the need for developing and strengthening these relations to serve people's interests and issues of environment. The talks also dealt with the situation and developments in the region.

Arabs To Insist on Comprehensive Solution

JN0412155192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The foreign ministers of the Arab countries concerned with the peace process will hold a coordination meeting in Beirut today to assess the results of the seventh round of peace talks and adopt a unified strategy for the next round, scheduled to begin next Monday.

The Arab ministers are expected to emphasize the pan-Arab elements and principles of a just and honorable solution which have been adopted at their meetings in Damascus and Amman, and which were considered by Arab capitals, as stated by the highest level of officials, basic conditions for the aspired-for peace in the Middle East.

In Damascus, and in his comprehensive interview with the U.S. magazine TIME, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed Syria's rejection of separate agreements and what Israel terms compromise solutions. He explained that the Israeli withdrawal should include every inch of the Golan and all occupied territories. He also stressed that there is no alternative to a comprehensive solution on all fronts of the conflict. He also stressed that progress in the Washington talks is linked to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and a commitment to the principles of Madrid conference.

Also in Damascus, Presidents al-Asad and al-Hrawi stressed in their latest meeting the principles of a just settlement that should be comprehensive and should lead to a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. They also stressed that Arab coordination should continue.

In Amman, separate agreements have been rejected. Palestinian officials declared their commitment to a comprehensive solution and coordination of their position with Syria, thus, foiling the attempts of the Israeli rulers to divide the unity of Arab ranks and peddle partial and separate settlements.

All these positions and movements indicate the solidarity of the Arab fold in the Washington talks, and the determination of the Arab delegations to the peace process to confront Israeli provocations through a unified position, and to put the Israeli rulers in front of a sole option that either fully responds to the requisites of a just peace in the region, or that makes them appear to the whole world as the ones who reject peace and who stick to the policy of expansion and aggression.

The Israeli prime minister's statements on peace have not convinced any world leader because these statements have not been translated into actions, and were aimed at deceiving the international community. The Israeli press revealed that the current U.S. Administration has sent a secret memorandum to Rabin's government holding it responsible for obstructing the seventh round of talks. Ranking European officials have not hesitated to say that Rabin's government was below the hoped-for level in its peace endeavor, that the small steps it took are not enough to make progress, and that responding to the right Arab demands—whether related to withdrawal from the occupied territories or recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination—is something essential for realizing the aspired-for progress.

All this indicates that the media campaign, personally led by Yitzhaq Rabin, which aims to hold the Arabs responsible for the current stalemate, has not convinced world leaders. Thus, the poisoned arrow returns to the one who shot it. Israel is the accused, and the international community denounces the current rulers of Tel Aviv, who follow the steps of their predecessor Shamir in obstructing the talks and resorting to maneuvers, provocations, and procrastination.

It is beneficial to say that Rabin's media war has angered the Arab parties, one after another, though it concentrated on Syria because Syria is the focus of the current talks, and has political and pan-Arab weight that prevents Israel's success in dividing and penetrating the Arab ranks, and peddling separate deals which conflict with the hoped-for real peace in the Middle East. The positions declared by Syria and the proposals it presented have manifested the will of the Arabs everywhere, and emphasized the pan-Arab nature of the crisis where it insisted that the solution should be comprehensive, and that Israel should withdraw from every inch of the occupied territories.

Nothing of what Syria has declared contradicts the resolutions of international legitimacy. What Syria has said represents an effective translation of these resolutions and a sincere commitment to UN principles and its charter. All that Syria has said can be summed up in one phrase, that is that occupation is contrary to peace. Therefore, there will be no peace without fully eliminating the occupation and its results. Eliminating the occupation and its results simply means Israel's withdrawal to the borders of 4 June 1967, dismantling the settlements it constructed, and canceling all annexation and judaization measures. Regardless of Israel's maneuvers, prevarications, and procrastination, it will not hear anything from the Arabs other than what it heard from Syria and what President Hafiz al-Asad has openly declared about the constants of a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

Bangladesh

Hindu Temples Attacked; Military on 'High Alert'

BK0712050192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0448 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Dec 7 (AFP)—Hindu temples in Dhaka and Chittagong came under attack and an India-Bangladesh cricket match was stopped mid-way after Hindu revivalists sacked a centuries-old mosque in India.

Police and paramilitary forces were put on high alert nationwide and security around Hindu neighborhoods and temples was stepped up, newspaper reports said.

The government of this predominantly Moslem nation—where 12 percent of the total 110 million population are Hindus—decried Sunday's frenzied demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.

"We are shocked and deeply concerned that such an incident took place in a democratic and secular country like India," a government spokesman said, quoted on state radio.

In Dhaka, Moslem fundamentalist groups attacked three Hindu temples and a Hindu-owned shop, police and press reports said, adding that several people were arrested. No damage was reported to the temples.

Small groups marched through Dhaka streets after news of the mosque's demolition spread, but police intervened and forced them to break up.

In Chittagong, Bangladesh's major port city, troops moved in to restore order after thousands took to the streets in anger. One resident said by telephone that about 100 people were injured in clashes, and that several Hindu temples were damaged.

An India-Bangladesh cricket match in Dhaka was abandoned mid-way Monday after police baton-charged and teargassed a crowd outside a downtown stadium that was protesting the Babri Masjid affair, witnesses said. [passage omitted]

Zia Expresses Concern

BK0712023492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed concern at the damage to the historic Babri Mosque in India and called upon the people of Bangladesh to show utmost restraint in the spirit of Islam. The prime minister called upon the people to maintain peace and social harmony at any cost. She said the people of Bangladesh firmly believe in harmony between the communities and peace, which they would maintain at all costs. She said Islam, being the religion of peace, taught all to exercise restraint and (tahow) tolerance to other faiths and beliefs.

The government last night expressed its deep concern and shock at the damage to Babri Mosque in India. A government spokesman said (Tikry) are shocked and deeply concerned that such an incident took place in a democratic and secular country like India. The government also appealed to the people to (tahow restraint) and tolerance.

A number of political parties, including BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], have expressed deep concern and shock at the damage caused to Babri Mosque in Ayodhya. In a statement last night, BNP Secretary General Abdul Kalam Talukdar urged the Indian Government to take appropriate action to protect the religious institutions of the Muslims and to help maintain peace and harmony.

Zia Speaks of 'Evil Designs' of 'Defeated Forces'

BK0612165092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has called upon the people to cooperate with the government in the process of consolidating democracy and building a self-reliant economy. Addressing a public meeting organized in celebration of Democracy Day at (Manichanian) Avenue in the capital this afternoon, the prime minister said her party believed in the economic emancipation of the people through attaining self-reliance. She said independence does not mean only a map or change of a flag, but establishment of democracy and national development.

Begum Zia said the slogans for democracy and development did not suit that party which joined hands with the defeated forces of autocracy to materialize evil designs. The government together with the people will resist any effort to disrupt democracy and the on-going development projects. She paid tributes to those who had shed blood in the democratic movement during the nine years of autocratic rule. [passage omitted].

India

Hundreds of Hindus Storm Disputed Ayodhya Mosque

BK0612074692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0711 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Ayodhya, India, Dec 6 (AFP)—Hundreds of Hindus stormed a disputed mosque here Sunday, minutes before holy men were to launch a symbolic temple-building drive on the grounds of the 16th-century shrine, witnesses said.

The nearly 1,000 Hindus, some carrying swords and sticks, climbed onto two of the three domes of the decrepit building, the witnesses said. They hurled bricks and other objects at police, triggering a stampede at the site. An unspecified number of people, including policemen, were injured. The rebellious Hindus tore down three layers of steel fencing and barbed wire around the shrine and attacked policemen, some of

whom ran away, the witnesses at the site said. They raised a saffron-coloured Hindu flag on top of the shrine, as Hindu leaders urged them to keep calm.

"Please don't resort to violence," screamed Ashok Singhal, general secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council) spearheading the temple crusade. "Please listen to reason."

No major damage to the shrine was reported.

Hindu leaders had pledged that no harm would be done to the mosque, limiting Sunday's temple-building drive to scrubbing and polishing of a concrete foundation laid on the ground. Only Hindu holy men were to carry out the ceremony and followers of the faith restricted to carrying sand to the site from the banks of the sacred Sarya river here.

Fears had been rife that the thousands of Hindus who have gathered in this pilgrimage town may prove too large to be restrained from harming the mosque, built by Mughal ruler Babar in India's early Islamic era. Hindus believe the mosque stands on the ruins of a temple to the Hindu god Rama and insist that the spot marks the birthplace of Rama, revered as an incarnation of God Vishnu, the preserver of life in Hindu mythology.

Mosque Dome Collapses

BBC0612103092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 6 (AFP)—One of the three domes of a 16th-century mosque stormed by Hindu militants collapsed Sunday, injuring several people gathered on the disputed site, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

The dome had been damaged by the militants, thousands of whom invaded the shrine, the news agency said, adding that the remaining two were on the verge of toppling down.

The injured included several Hindus perched on top of the dome, PTI said.

Red Alert in Uttar Pradesh

BBC0612121192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] An official spokesman has said in New Delhi that 30 companies of paramilitary forces have been provided to the Uttar Pradesh [UP] government for strengthening security arrangements in Ayodhya. This followed the request by the Uttar Pradesh government. The state government had requisitioned the assistance of central security forces following the attempt by a section of sevaks [volunteers for temple construction] to tamper with the disputed structure. Earlier, in a telephonic talk with the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, again reminded Mr. Kalyan Singh that he has always been insisting on the UP government taking adequate measures to maintain peace at Ayodhya. He also brought to the notice of Mr. Kalyan Singh his earlier letter on the subject. The union home secretary also had telephonic talks with the state director general of police and the chief secretary in this regard.

Meanwhile, there are reports that a few hundred kar sevaks [volunteers for temple construction] entered into the complex this afternoon. Our correspondent reports that the sevaks climbed the structure and attempted to tamper with its outer walls. According to official sources in Lucknow, the police made a lathi [baton] charge and used tear gas to disperse the surging kar sevaks, but as they failed, the central security forces had to move in. There is no report yet whether the ritualistic kar seva [commencing service of temple construction] as per the Supreme Court order has begun or not. The situation in Ayodhya is reported to be very tense.

An agency report from Lucknow says that a red alert has been sounded throughout Uttar Pradesh in the wake of today's developments in Ayodhya. All the district authorities have been asked to maintain a strict vigil over the law and order situation. In sensitive areas, patrolling by the paramilitary forces has been started. In Varanasi, curfew was clamped in seven police station areas as a precaution.

In Gujarat, police have been put on alert throughout the state following today's developments at Ayodhya. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the state.

The Janata Dal and left parties have demanded immediate dismissal of the Uttar Pradesh government for its alleged failure to protect the disputed structure at Ayodhya. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, said in New Delhi today that leaders of these parties are meeting the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, this afternoon. He said the center is also responsible for the developments in Ayodhya. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Politburo member, Mr. Prakash Karat, criticized the center for what he called its inaction despite repeated warnings that a serious situation was developing in Ayodhya.

The Madhya Pradesh Congress-I president, Mr. Digvijay Singh, says that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP, World Hindu Council] appears to be bent upon bringing about a confrontation on the Ayodhya issue. Addressing a news conference in Bhopal today, he said the VHP does not appear to have any intention to solve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] dispute.

The SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, says the Narasimha Rao government has been following a policy of drift on important issues, including that of Ayodhya. Addressing a news conference in Chandigarh today, he said if the Ayodhya situation is not handled properly, it could snowball into a big crisis. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it is unfortunate that the center is depending on the judiciary on an issue where the country's secular values are at stake.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Resigns

BK0612123592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1250 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Agency reports from Lucknow say that the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, has resigned following today's developments in Ayodhya. He submitted his resignation to the state governor, Mr. Satyanarayan Reddy, this evening. The Union Cabinet is meeting in New Delhi this evening to review the situation arising out of the incidents in Ayodhya.

Reaction to Ayodhya Incident Cited

BK0612140592 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 1330 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] The Congress-I has condemned today's developments in Ayodhya. Party spokesman V.N. Gadgil said in New Delhi that the Uttar Pradesh government did not try to handle the situation effectively. He also condemned the manhandling of newspersons by the volunteers for temple construction.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has supported today's incidents in Ayodhya, describing them as unfortunate and criminal. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, party's Vice President Sunder Singh Bhandari said that the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet of Ministers is meeting in Lucknow this evening to review the situation in Ayodhya.

West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu and the ruling left front have urged the prime minister to dismiss the Uttar Pradesh government in view of today's developments in Ayodhya. In a statement in Calcutta today, Basu asked the central government to take urgent measures to prevent the harmful consequences of the Ayodhya incidents.

Digvijay Singh, the Madhya Pradesh Congress-I Committee president, has said that the World Hindu Council appears to be bent on bringing about a confrontation on the Ayodhya issue. Talking to newspersons in Bhopal, he said the World Hindu Council is not at all interested in resolving the Ayodhya mosque-temple dispute.

Syed Shahabuddin, the convener of the All India Babri Masjid [Mosque] Movement Coordination Committee, has demanded immediate dismissal of the Kalyan Singh government in view of the developments in Ayodhya. In a statement in New Delhi today, he urged the central government to remain vigilant to check the activities of the Hindu volunteers for temple construction. He urged the people, especially the Muslim community, to maintain restraint and communal harmony.

President Calls For Public Order

BK0612144092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] The president has strongly deplored vandalism that has caused damage to the masjid [mosque] at Ayodhya. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma has observed that such acts are absolutely against the doctrine and practice of Hinduism and all other great religions. Those who have harmed the structure of the masjid have caused injuries to the centuries-old ethos of India nurtured and strengthened by the martyrs and great leaders of India's struggle for freedom and national reconstruction.

The president requested the prime minister to initiate appropriate and expeditious steps to uphold the rule of law, the maintenance of public order, and protection of all law-abiding citizens. Dr. Sharma also appealed to the people to maintain peace and unity and cooperate with one another in curbing all antinational elements.

Cabinet Meets, Reacts

BK0612150192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] The Union Cabinet is meeting in New Delhi this evening to review the situation arising out of the incidents in Ayodhya.

Official sources reacting to the developments in Ayodhya have pointed out that the center has been repeatedly drawing the Uttar Pradesh government's attention to the need for effective steps for the safety of the disputed structure. The home minister had advised the state chief minister to use central paramilitary forces to beef up the security arrangements. They said it was only around midday today that the state government accepted the center's suggestions to have more forces. Waiving all formalities, the additional forces were provided immediately. The situation could have been different had these forces been deployed at least by 1300, the sources said.

Uttar Pradesh Government Dismissal Urged

BK0612151792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] A delegation of the Janata Dal and left parties met the president in New Delhi this evening and urged him to take immediate steps to uphold the Constitution and to protect the unity and integrity of the country. The party has demanded the dismissal of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government in Uttar Pradesh. A 20-member delegation of Muslim leaders also called on the president and conveyed their anguish over the Ayodhya developments. Talking to newsmen Syed Shahabuddin, coordinator of the All India Babri Masjid Movement Coordination Committee, said the center has failed in keeping its commitment.

The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said in New Delhi that the Uttar Pradesh government has handled the situation very sufficiently. He said the incidents in Ayodhya are an act of treachery.

The BJP has reported today's incidents in Ayodhya and described them as unfortunate and criminal. Briefing newspersons in New Delhi today, the party vice president, Mr. Sunder Singh Bhandari, admitted that the

district administration failed to check the entrance of kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] in the disputed area.

The senior Janata Dal leader and former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has described today's developments in Ayodhya as shocking and demanded the dismissal of the state government.

The SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, says, if the Ayodhya situation is not handled properly, it could snowball into a big crisis.

The Supreme Court is having a special sitting later tonight to hear an application for appointment of a receiver of the disputed structure on the acquired land at Ayodhya in the wake of today's reports from Ayodhya. A division bench comprising Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah and Mr. Justice G.N. Ray, which met at a special sitting earlier today to consider the application, adjourned the hearing till later tonight.

Police and security agencies in Delhi have been put on maximum alert to prevent any fallout of the incidents in Ayodhya. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 [banning assembly of more than four persons at a place] have been clamped throughout Delhi as a precautionary measure.

All Domes Collapse

BK0612153792 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 1510 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Hindu Volunteers assembled at Ayodhya badly damaged the disputed structure in Ayodhya today as a result of which all three domes of the mosque collapsed. During the day, thousands of volunteers overcame the security barricade and entered the disputed structure. Agency reports say the central paramilitary forces were prevented from entering Ayodhya. They were pelted with stones and other objects. It was also reported that Ayodhya-Faizabad road was blocked by people throwing burning tires.

Earlier, the home minister held talks with the Uttar Pradesh chief minister and sent 50 companies of paramilitary forces to deal with the situation. The volunteers mistreated journalists and beat up some TV cameramen and [newsmen]. Our correspondent reporting from the incident site says that the security personnel could not prevent the storming of the disputed structure by the volunteers. This morning at about 1150 [0620 GMT], thousands of volunteers overcame the security barricade and fully occupied the religious place 20 minutes before the start of the community service to build the temple.

Assembly Dissolved; President's Rule

BK0612154892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] President's rule has been imposed in Uttar Pradesh and the state assembly stands dissolved. According to an official spokesman in New Delhi a short while ago, a notification was issued under Article 356 of the Constitution. He said this has been necessitated in view of the breakdown of the constitutional machinery in Uttar Pradesh and the state government's failure to uphold the Constitution and court orders. He pointed out that the state government specifically failed to fulfill the solemn assurances given by it to the Supreme Court.

Earlier, the cabinet Committee on Political Affairs met in New Delhi to take stock of the situation arising from the damage caused to the disputed structure.

Prime Minister Appeals for Calm

BK0612155992 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao—live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: I am speaking to you this evening under the grave threat that has been posed to the institutions, principles, and ideals on which the Constitution's structure of our Republic has been built. During the struggle for freedom under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, we had promised to ourselves an India free of exploitation, hunger, and pestilence, recognizing the right of every citizen to the fruits of democracy and also his right to practice and preach his own religion without any interference. This all was enshrined in our Constitution, and the founding fathers of our country sanctified this in the written Constitution of India.

In a country of the size and diversity like ours, it is only the concern and care for the sensibilities of each other which can ensure a smooth functioning of the institutions that we have created. This is the only way to maintain peace and harmony among the people of India. Whatever may be our differences on political, social, and economic issues, they have to be acted upon keeping this wider concept in view. The delicate fabric of our nation woven around democracy and secularism is the only anchor-sheet for our country's existence.

The country has witnessed in the last few years an attempt by certain political parties, who have, in their pursuit of power, not been able to exercise restraint and keep their actions within the limitations of propriety, law, and the demands of national integration. They used the differences evolving around the Ram Janambhoomi-Masjid [temple-mosque] dispute to excite [word indistinct] communal passions and utilize the same for political purposes. We have pleaded with them. We have made our efforts to bring different people together in an effort to resolve this matter amicably through peaceful negotiations. We have gone to the fullest extent to create an atmosphere in the country which would be conducive to this effort. We have passed to all parties to the dispute ways and means to get a judicial determination to this vexed problem. I see no other way in a democratic polity to determine matters on which strong views are held on all sides.

I have personally done whatever I could to help reach a negotiated settlement or a judicial determination to this issue, and all democratic and secular forces have helped in this effort. But I am sad to state that the BJP-VHP [Bharatiya Janata Party-Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council] combine has not only failed to respond to my efforts, but, as a matter of fact, have gone about deliberately to not only thwart my efforts, but also to mislead the nation about my intentions. What has happened today in Ayodhya, where the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid structure has been demolished, is a matter of great shame and concern for all Indians. Each and every one of us want, and I have stated so repeatedly, that we must have a grand temple to Lord Rama being built at Ayodhya. As a matter of fact, people of all faiths in India are even prepared to actively help in this. The BJP-VHP combine has, however, continued to pursue a different line because they feel that is the only route to carry them on the seats of power. This is a betrayal of the nation and a confrontation with all that is sacred to all Indians as a legacy which we have all inherited and which is a part of national ethos. A great affront has been caused to this.

As a first servant of the people of India, it is not only my duty, but also my mandate to ensure that all such communal forces who are out to confront the nation itself must be met resolutely. We will go to any extent to preserve and protect secularism and democratic credentials of our nation. In this onerous task I seek the support and blessings of all the citizens of this country. I would like to say very clearly that we shall no longer suffer the machiavellian tactics of the communal forces in this country. I appeal to all those misguided people who have assembled at Ayodhya on the inspirations of persons who do not have the well-being of the nation at heart to disperse peacefully and let the law of the land have full sway there.

It is to achieve this that my government has dimissed the government of Uttar Pradesh headed by Mr. Kalyan Singh, which has totally failed in its primary duty to which they had pledged themselves time and again to protect the structure. I would like to sound a note of warning to everyone who may try to help such elements, who have put the peace and tranquility of the nation in jeopardy, that we shall not spare any action against them in the interest of the nation. I appeal to all of you to maintain calm, peace, and harmony at this grave moment of crisis. We have faced many such situations in the past and have overcome them. We shall do this again with firm determination and conviction in the rightness of our path.

Jai Hindi [hail India].

'Prohibitory Orders' Imposed

BK0612164092 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1620 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Following today's incidents in Ayodhya, a red alert has been sounded throughout Uttar Pradesh. Police patrolling has been intensified in sensitive districts. Indefinite curfew was imposed in areas in nine police stations of Varanasi city. The district administration has ordered closure of all educational institutions in the district till the 13th of this month. Indefinite curfew has also been imposed in seven police station areas of Allahabad city as a precautionary measure.

Here in the capital, paramilitary forces carried out flag marches at more than a dozen places in the walled city. Prohibitory orders have been imposed in the entire union territory in view of the developments in Ayodhya. Carrying of firearms, holding rallies and dharnas [blockade] have been banned in the capital.

In Rajasthan, prohibitory orders are clamped in Jaipur and Jodhpur. These will remain in force till the end of the month. In Gujarat, the police was put on high alert throughout the state. Prohibitory orders banning processions and meetings throughout the city have been promulgated.

In Kerala, prohibitory orders have been clamped in several parts of the city.

The west Bengal government has alerted all district authorities in view of today's development in Ayodhya.

The Assam government has also taken a precautionary measure in maintaining law and order in the state in view of the prevailing situation at Ayodhya.

Hindus Erect Temple on Ruins

BK0712043892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0429 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Ayodhya, India, Dec 7 (AFP)—Hindu militants raised a small temple dedicated to their warrior-God Rama on the ruins of an ancient mosque destroyed Friday by thousands of frenzied Hindus.

The marble shrine came up overnight at the site of the 16th century mosque and tens of thousands of Hindus were still at the site, carting away the debris of the fallen Moslem religious building.

"People are even now celebrating the destruction of the mosque," a witness said, adding that the local administration was still undecided on ways to clear the area.

Thousands of Hindus Sunday stormed and destroyed the disputed mosque, erected by Moghul emperor Babar in 1528. Hindus claim it was constructed on the ruins of a shrine of Lord Rama, who was allegedly born there.

The Hindus who destroyed the mosque with pickaxes, hammers, swords, and sticks worked throughout the night Sunday, clearing away the rubble. Later, the place was swept clean with brooms.

The invaders had overpowered the outnumbered security forces, brought down the mosque's three giant domes and then smashed the walls.

The temple site and its surrounding areas was under the control of Hindu mobs, residents said, adding that Ayodhya, a tiny town some 700 kilometers (420 miles) from New Delhi, was tense.

At least three Hindus were killed and more than 200 others injured when huge pieces of masonry crashed on them while they were pulling down the mosque, hospital sources said. Other unofficial sources, however, put the toll at 10.

Faizabad town, which borders Ayodhya, was still under curfew, the residents said.

Moslems number more than 100 million in India and form its largest minority. More than 80 percent of India's 870 million are Hindus.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) personnel watched silently as the Hindu militants cleared the mosque debris and some were even seen "guiding" the volunteers.

The PAC, a local paramilitary unit, is widely reputed to be pro- Hindu.

"Huge boulders of the three domes were being broken into smaller pieces for removal," PTI said. "Ropes were also being used to push down huge stones."

BJP Leader Resigns

BK0712053992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0527 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 7 (AFP)—The leader of India's opposition in parliament resigned Monday after a state government controlled by his Hindu-revivalist party failed to keep its pledge to protect an ancient mosque.

Lal Krishna Advani of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) submitted his resignation as leader of the opposition in the house, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Advani, a Hindu, had expressed regrets after thousands of Hindus stormed and destroyed the 16th century mosque in the Indian town of Ayodhya Sunday.

The BJP, which governed Ayodhya, had earlier backed a shrill Hindu militant campaign to raise a temple for Hindu Lord Rama at the site of the mosque, built in 1528 by Moghul emperor Babur.

But it had promised to ensure the protection of the mosque.

The BJP is the second largest group in the Indian parliament after Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) party. It also governs three of the country's 25 states.

The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, where Ayodhya is located, was sacked by New Delhi Sunday after the mosque destruction.

Country's Security Situation Detailed

BK0712080692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Security measures have been strengthened throughout the country. The Army has been put on alert in at least six states.

In West Bengal, a bandh [strike] is being observed today to protest against the rampage by the kar sevaks [volunteers for building temple] at the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] complex in Ayodhya yesterday. The call for the 24-hour bandh has been given separately by the ruling Left Front and the opposition Congress-I. According to police, the bandh has so far been peaceful. The suburban train services in Howrah and Sealdah division of the Eastern Railways were disrupted at a number of stations following blockade. Long distance trains have also been regulated at a number of places.

The leaders of the National Front and Left parties are meeting in New Delhi today to work out their strategy to be adopted in parliament following the Ayodhya developments. Stating this, the Janata Dal vice president, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, charged the central government with failure to protect the structure at Ayodhya.

In Madhya Pradesh, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in Bhopal, Jabalpore and Ujjain following incidents of violence. Red alert has been sounded throughout the state. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons] have been promulgated in a number of other cities. The police patrolling has been intensified in all the sensitive areas.

In Bangladesh, a hostile crowd pelted stones at the Indian High Commission building in Dhaka late last night. Our correspondent reports that police swung into action before much damage was done.

An indefinite curfew was imposed in five police station areas in Delhi City. According to police, curfew was imposed in Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk, Hauz Kaus, Sadar Bazaar, and Bara Hindu Rao police station areas from 1000 this morning. According to agencies, several companies of Delhi police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in the affected areas. Paramilitary forces conducted flag marches at over a dozen places in the walled city yesterday to instill confidence among the public.

Muslim Backlash Reported

BK0712081392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 7 (AFP)—At least 37 people were killed across India on Monday in a Moslem backlash over the destruction of an ancient mosque by Hindus, as the opposition leader in federal parliament resigned in disgust.

Police shot dead seven rioters in Bombay, while 12 people were killed in communal rioting in the northern city of Jaipur, after hundreds of Moslems took to the

streets to protest the destruction of the mosque Sunday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Five people were killed in mob violence in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya, where the 16th-century mosque was razed by thousands of frenzied Hindus intent on building a temple for their warrior-god Rama on its ruins.

Six protesters were killed in Ahmedabad, western India, while seven died in separate incidents elsewhere, including New Delhi where police gunned-down a rioter after hundreds of Moslems took to the streets on the capital's eastern firing.

Army and paramilitary troops were patrolling dozens of communally sensitive towns and cities in the country, as sporadic violence left scores of people injured in Hindu-Moslem clashes, PTI said.

In New Delhi, authorities imposed an indefinite curfew in parts of the Moslem-dominated walled city after sporadic incidents of stabbings and stoning of shops and security forces. A Moslem university was also ordered closed.

The violence was the first eruption after the razing of the mosque in Ayodhya, where witnesses said the Hindus had built a tiny temple on its ruins overnight.

The rapid developments, which sparked national outrage, prompted the federal government to sack the Uttar Pradesh government of the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiaya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party).

In New Delhi, angry MPs of all opposition parties barring the BJP stormed the speaker's chamber in parliament demanding Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's resignation, forcing an adjournment of the house for nearly four hours.

One Christian MP was seen waving a placard: "Ban BJP."

The BJP meanwhile announced that its star leader, Lal Krishna Advani, was resigning as the opposition leader in parliament to denounce the vandalization of the mosque, built in 1528 by Moghul emperor Babar.

The announcement was made here by party leader Atal Behari Vajpayee, a moderate in the otherwise blatantly pro-Hindu BJP, the second largest grouping in parliament after Rao's Congress (I) party.

"We are sorrowful," Vajpayee told reporters.

Advani, a Hindu projected by the BJP as prime minister-in-waiting, had been until Sunday a strident supporter of the Hindu militant temple-building campaign.

National newspapers joined President Shankar Dayal Sharma and the secular opposition in denouncing the destruction of the mosque, which the Uttar Pradesh government had earlier pledged to protect.

Moslems number more than 100 million in Hindu-majority India, and constitute its largest religious minority.

"The nation must hang its head in shame over what has happened at Ayodhya," The widely circulated HINDUSTAN TIMES newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

Other newspapers also denounced the Hindu attack on the mosque, and urged Rao, who became prime minister in June 1991, to take immediate action to staunch Hindu fundamentalism.

"Sunday was a dark day for India," moaned The HINDU DAILY. The BUSINESS and POLITICAL OBSERVER added: "Sunday was a day of shame for all Indians."

Newspapers described the desecration of the mosque, which Hindus claim was built on the ruins of a Rama temple at the birth site of the revered god incarnate, as an act that had shamed and disgraced India's secularism.

The TIMES OF INDIA warned that the mosque's destruction had widened the gulf between Hindus, who form more than 80 percent of India's 870 million people, and Moslems.

Concern was echoed in parliament, where the centrist, leftist and Moslem MPs clashed with members of the BJP, triggering pandemonium in both chambers.

PTI reported mounting violence in several places in northern and western India, which have a history of Hindu-Moslem violence over the temple-mosque row in Ayodhya that has left thousands dead across India since 1986.

Police banned the assembly of more than four people in major towns. Officials said many towns were tense.

Monday's violence erupted despite appeals for calm by prominent Moslem leaders. Syed Ahmed Bukhari, chief priest of India's largest mosque here, urged restraint.

"The communal forces have tried to show supremacy, but they are wrong," he said in a statement. "Ultimately, the secular forces will win.

Army Deployed in Calcutta

BK0712085292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] In Calcutta, despite the 24-hour bandh [strike] which began this morning some incidents of violence occurred. The Army has been deployed in some areas of central and southwest Calcutta following tension. The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, told newsmen a short while ago that curfew has been imposed in 20 police station areas under five zones of the city covering north, central, eastern, and southwestern Calcutta. The Army has also been deployed at Asansol and Barrackpore. Section 144 [banning assembly of than four

personal] has been promulgated in Howrah town. However, according to the chief minister, the situation in Calcutta and elsewhere in the state is under control.

Prime Minister's Resignation Ruled Out

BK0712124292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The Congress-I says there is no question of Mr. Narasimha Rao resigning as prime minister so long as he enjoys the confidence of parliament and the party. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, a party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said Mr. Narasimha Rao, honestly, sincerely, and patiently tried to avoid a confrontation on the Ayodhya issue and evolve a solution. He said there is no question of Mr. Narasimha Rao owning responsibility as the solemn promises made by the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and the leaders of the VHP [World Hindu Council], BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] were not kept. He said the Congress-I demands very strong action against communal parties and organizations.

The executive committee of the Congress-I party in parliament met in New Delhi this afternoon and resolved to stand solidly behind the prime minister in his bid to uphold secularism and protect and preserve the country's unity and integrity.

20 Killed in Uttar Pradesh Violence

BK0712125292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation is reported to be tense following eruption of violent incidents in some parts of the state. An official spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] Lucknow correspondent that 20 persons were killed in police firing and clashes in different districts. All the district magistrates have been asked to seek the Army assistance if necessary to meet any eventuality. Meanwhile, indefinite curfew imposed in 18 districts is being strictly enforced.

About half of the kar sevaks [volunteers to build temple], who had assembled in Ayodhya, left for their homes today. The authorities have arranged a large number of buses and special trains for the return journey of the kar sevaks. The Uttar Pradesh director general of police visited Ayodhya today to take stock of the situation. The Faizabad divisional commissioner has been placed in charge of the administration in the area. The district magistrate and the senior superintendent of police of Ayodhya have been suspended for yesterday's incidents. Official sources say efforts are underway to defuse the situation there.

Iran

Khamenei Says Mosque Incident 'Beyond' Local Issue

LD0712110192 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei today voiced the support of the Iranian and world Muslims for the Muslim people in India following Sunday's demolition of a 16th century mosque in Ayodhya by extremist Hindus.

The leader, in a message addressed to foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the occasion, assigned him to take urgent measures in reminding the Indian Government of the legitimate rights of the Indian muslims.

"The deplorable destruction of a historical mosque in India by a group of fanatic and provoked ignorant people, has placed a heavy burdern on the shoulders of all Muslims not only for the defense of a mosque against the aggression of infidels and the enemies which is a public duty, but also because the enemy, by instigating a handful of ignorant and deceived people, has tried to compensate for its unending grudge and animosity against Islam and Muslims by demolishing one of the monuments manifesting the glory of Islam in India and a symbol of art and civilization," said the message.

However, it noted, in this incident the fanatic and deviated Hindus were less guilty than "the diabolic hands and minds" which were after humiliating the huge population of Indian Muslims, and at the same time wanted to fan the flames of ethnic differences which had calmed down after independence struggles in that country.

Stressing that Indian Muslims should not tolerate such a malevolent attitude by the enemies, the message instructed Velayati to take necessary measures within the framework of diplomatic relations with the Indian Government to draw its attention towards the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Indian Muslims.

It also called on the foreign minister to bring to the attention of the Indian Government the point that the incident was far beyond a local issue and that Iranian Muslims as well as Muslims all over the world were behind the Indian Muslims and would not tolerate such a blatant case of injustice and insult to hundreds of millions of Indian Muslims.

"We expect the Indian Government to immediately check the spread of the problem and its turning into a complicated issue by taking wise and calculated decisions."

Attack Called 'Shameful'

LD0612233992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic in Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on Sunday, expressing regret at the attack by Hindu extremists on the Babri mosque and the destruction of that holy place. The statement says that this move is yet another tragedy that has befallen the sanctities and cultural symbols of the Muslims of India. It is a violation of the sanctity of their place of worship and a blatant violation of India's Constitution.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by condemning this shameful action by the extremists, has emphasized that it expects the Indian Government to repair the destruction caused, restore the injured spirit of Muslims, decisively confront the elements responsible for this tragedy, and formulate effective preventive measures to stop actions of this kind.

Clandestine Radio Praises Resolution on Somalia

NC0712004692 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kurdistan in Persian 1730 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Station commentary: "The New UN Security Council Decision"]

[Text] Esteemed listeners. At its latest session, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution, according to which a joint multinational force led by the United States will set out to establish security in and support relief operations to the hungry, famine-stricken people of Somalia.

The resolution is significant for two reasons. This is the first time the UN Security Council has decided to use military forces to convey humanitarian assistance to suffering people. Second, this action highlights the important and constructive role that the United Nations and the Security Council should play in future.

Numerous personalities, organizations, humanitarian circles, and human rights supporters have described the resolution as an important historical measure. Further, by conveying humanitarian assistance to victims of hardship and famine in this way, any obstacle to the process can be eliminated by the use of manpower and military force, which generates new and greater hope among the suffering people.

It is a source of happiness that humanitarian measures are being afforded such importance that the (?United Nations), an international organization, can mobilize military forces when it must.

Hopefully this trend will continue in one way or another and all the suffering people can have equal access to such facilities.

Pakistan

Ayodhya Mosque Destruction Sets Off Protests

Hindu Temple Set on Fire

BR0712094792 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 7 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] KARACHI: Some miscreants set a Hindu temple on fire in the premises of Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre [JPMC], following the reports of the demolition of Babri mosque in Ayodhya.

Though the administration has tightened the security around the temples in the city, some miscreants got the chance to attack the temple situated in the JPMC premises.

Emergency Cabinet Session Held

BR0712004492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The federal cabinet in an emergency session in Islamabad this morning expressed its deep anguish and grave concern over the desecration and destruction of Babri Masjid [mosque]. As a mark of protest against the desecration of the masjid and gross violation of human rights in India, the cabinet decided to call upon the people to register their protest by closing down all businesses and offices and by holding peaceful rallies tomorrow. Special prayers will also be offered for the protection and wellbeing of the Muslims of India.

Chaired by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the cabinet reviewed the situation arising out of the tragic and deplorable incident and hoped that the government and the people of India would realize the grave implications of this unprecedented act of fanaticism. The incident has made a mockery of the Indian claim of secularism, the meeting observed.

The federal cabinet also decided to formally appeal to the international community in general and the United Nations and the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] in particular to take notice of this incident which has deeply (?pained) not only Muslims the world over, but has also caused concern among all rational people. It will appeal to the two international organizations to exert their influence and impress upon India the need to protect the rights of the Indian Muslims and their places of worship.

Addressing the meeting, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, expressed his government's firm resolve to protect the lives and properties of all minorities in Pakistan. This, he said, was not only the demand of our constitution, but also the dictates of our faith. The prime minister appealed to all Pakistanis to exercise utmost patience and restraint and join hands with the government in ensuring fullest protection to the members of the minority communities and their holy places.

The NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] assembly has strongly condemned the demolition of the historic Babri Masjid by Hindu fanatics. In a resolution passed unanimously in Peshawar this morning, the assembly said that this sacrilegious act by Hindu extremists was a gross violation of the Liaquat-Nehru Pact and this has shocked the entire Muslim ummah [community]. The resolution tabled by the provincial chief minister, Mr. Mir Afzal Khan, also called upon the federal government to mobilize international opinion on this issue. The minority member of the assembly, Mr. Faqiruddin, said later that the Christian community of NWFP also join their Muslim brethren to strongly condemn this tragic act of Hindu fanatics.

The Sindh assembly also expressed its grave shock and anguish over the outrageous act of demolition of Babri Masjid. It adjourned for half an hour to protest against the sacrilegious act of fanaticism. A motion to this effect was moved in the Sindh assembly by the leader of the opposition, Syed Qaim Ali Shah. It said security measures have been tightened by the provincial government to protect life and property of Hindu minority. Police contingents have been deployed at temples and other places. Police sources told Radio Pakistan's Karachi representative that directives have been issued for providing full protection to Hindu places of worship and residences.

Radio Pakistan's Lahore representative in a dispatch reports that a number of processions have been taken out in the provincial metropolis and other towns and cities of the Punjab Province to express indignation over the sacrilegious act by Hindu extremists and protest against demolition of the historic Babri Masjid. Processionists raised slogans against the failure of the Indian Government to protect Babri Masjid and urged the world community to take notice of this most tragic act.

Protests Held in Punjab

BK0712115692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] A number of processions have been taken out in Lahore and other towns and cities of Punjab Province to express indignation over the sacrilegious act of Hindu extremists and protest against demolition of historic Babri Masjid. Processionists raised slogans against the failure of the Indian Government to protect Babri Masjid and urged the world community to take notice of this most (?tragic) act.

In the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province], peaceful protests and meetings were held and processions taken out throughout the province and [words indistinct] today against the desecration and destruction of the Babri Masjid. A similar procession led by the chief minister, Mir Afzal Khan, was also taken out from the NWFP assembly building after the session was adjourned. The demonstrators holding placards (?inscribed) with so-called Indian secularism urged the Indian Government to immediately reconstruct the masjid on its original site. They also chanted slogans against the Indian Government for its failure to protect the masjid.

In Sindh, security measures have been tightened by the provincial government to protect the life and property of Hindu minority. Police contingents have been deployed at temples and other places. The incident of destruction of Babri Masjid has also been condemned [words indistinct] in Baluchistan and the people staged protest demonstrations on the [words indistinct].

Bhutto Comments

BK0712095192 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 7 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Benazir Bhutto has described the razing of Babri Mosque at the hands of Hindu extremists as "a day of tragedy and mourning for Muslims the world over."

Reacting to news about the demolition of the Mosque, the opposition leader denounced the attack and said: "This action will incite communal hatred and fan the fires of Hindu fanaticism."

Ms Bhutto said the action warranted the strongest response from Islamabad. And she said that "plans for the scheduled meeting in Dhaka between Nawaz Sharif and Narasimha Rao should now be reconsidered in the wake of the latest developments."

Ms Bhutto said she was outraged and anguished to learn about the destruction of Babri Mosque. "This act of savagery has not only deeply hurt Muslim sentiments but raised fundamental questions about India's proclaimed commitment to secularism."

"It is now imperative for Islamabad to respond to this barbaric act in a manner that reflects the anger and anguish of all Muslims."

She said the responsibility for Sunday's tragic events in Ayodhya lay squarely with New Delhi. "Failure by the centre to act decisively and in time led the Hindu fundamentalists to press ahead with their unholy act." Now this tragedy will fuel more communal bitterness and reinforce the sense of insecurity felt by non-Hindus, especially Muslims in India.

Protest Lodged With India on Diplomatic Incident

BK0612113492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with India over yesterday's incident in New Delhi in which an official of the Pakistani High Commission was kidnapped and subjected to intense physical violence and beating. The Indian high commissioner in Islamabad was called by the acting foreign secretary this morning to receive the protest.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Pakistan considers the kidnaping and torture

of one of our officials as a grave violation of the Vienna Convention, in particular Article 21 which makes the person of diplomatic agent inviolable and states that he shall not be liable to any form of arrest or detention and that the receiving state shall treat with due respect and take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on his person, freedom and dignity.

Pakistan has also requested the Indian Government to receive a C-130 aircraft tomorrow carrying a medical team to New Delhi to examine Mr. Ashfaq, the victim of torture, and return him to Pakistan for medical treatment.

Editorial Praises UN Initiative on Somalia

BK0612102192 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "A timely UN Initiative"]

[Text] US President George Bush has ordered the dispatch of more than 26,000 US troops to Somalia to protect food deliveries from the warring factions. The order is in line with the UN Security Council's approval of a US-led military intervention to ensure smooth delivery of relief supplies to the African country's starving people. The new contingent, headed by Gen. Joseph Hoar, is empowered to use force backed by the full authority of the UN Charter. Morocco's UN envoy told the Council that his country would also be sending troops while France has announced its readiness to dispatch a substantial military force to Somalia to help in the distribution of food and other relief supplies. Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has also promised support in principle to US President Bush for an international UN mission to Somalia. Diplomats at UN said that Italy, Algeria, Egypt and Kuwait have either offered army personnel or were about to do so. However, Pakistan has already sent a contingent to Somalia to contribute to the US initiative for which President Bush has thanked Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on telephone. Mr. Bush conveyed his deep appreciation to Pakistan for being the only country so far to have sent troops to assist the United Nations in its relief operations in the war-ravaged country. He also requested the Prime Minister for additional troops for the UN operations in Somalia. Responding to the US request, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has agreed to provide an additional contingent of troops.

More than 300,000 Somalis have died and another 1.5 million are facing starvation as a result of the civil war since the country sank into anarchy following the ouster of President Siad Barre in 1991. Over the past two years, about ten tribal warlords have been fighting savagely for gaining control of the government in Mogadishu. They have nearly destroyed the country's economic infrastructure, its communications network and its agricultural system. Things have come to such a pass that approximately 80 percent of the food supplies reaching Mogadishu port are stolen and thus do not reach the starving population. Food convoys and aid workers have come under attacks as food has become a major weapon that a faction can grab to starve its rivals into submission. In these circumstances the immediate need was to curb violence so that the relief supplies could be safely distributed among the common Somalis caught up in a vicious civil war. Such a UN initiative was long overdue. Hopefully, it would go a long way in relieving the distress of the people of Somalia.

Agitation Launched To Please 'Foreign Masters'

BK0612172992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that the people have rejected completely the opposition's negative and agitational politics, which are a conspiracy against the country. Addressing a big public meeting in Gujar Khan today, he expressed the hope that the people would reject once and for all politicians working against the interests of Pakistan. The prime minister said that Pakistan is the homeland of brave people, and they would not allow anti-Pakistani forces to hatch conspiracies against it. He said that the Pakistan Muslim League [PML] created Pakistan and the PML government is now engaged in the gigantic task of preserving and developing this God-given Muslim country.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that the people of Pakistan have rejected the agitation of the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] and the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], and said that this is the party responsible for the breakup of the country. I, as the prime minister, will not allow any party to work against the interests of Pakistan, the prime minister said. He said that anticountry demonstrations and marches, which have been rejected by the people, have been started to please foreign masters. He said that it is a conspiracy against Pakistan, which is aimed at halting the process of massive development initiated by his government. He said that the opposition does not like to see Pakistan prosper. The prime minister said that his crusade against these forces will continue, and that the people of Pakistan will throw them out of the country's political arena.

The prime minister referred to yesterday's demonstration by PDA workers in Lahore, and said that they tried to hoist the PPP flag at the provincial assembly building in place of the Pakistani flag. He asked how these people could be faithful to Pakistan when they were trying to hoist their party flag by removing the Pakistani flag. He said that the PDP workers indulged in hooliganism and damaged the property of the people. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that the leader of the opposition was the prime minister when

she gave a medal to U.S. Senator Stephen Solarz, who is well-known throughout the world for being anti-Pakistan and pro-India. He said that he has a copy of Solarz's letter which he wrote to his voters in New York, most of whom were Hindus. In that letter, Solarz asked his Hindu voters to provide funds for his election campaign because he was trying to support the Indian stance and block the sale of F-16 planes and other defense equipment and economic aid to Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Punjab Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wayne, while addressing the meeting, said that the PDA protestors demonstrated lawlessness yesterday and damaged the gates of the Punjab assembly building, police posts, and government property. He said that it has been proved now that the government's decision not to allow any rally in Rawalpindi was correct because it was obvious that PPP workers would resort to violence and destruction.